



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAELI PRESENCE ON CANAL ENDS:

### EGYPTIAN UNITS MOVE INTO ZONE

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Six years and seven months of Israeli presence on the Suez Canal ended late yesterday as the last Israeli soldiers departed from the banks of the famed waterway to take up new positions some 14 miles eastward in the heart of the Sinai desert. The Israelis handed over their last positions on the canal banks to the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF). The last Israeli vehicle to leave the zone was a half-track carrying three soldiers. They left behind a bullet-punctured sign saying "Shalom" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. Someone added, "Au Revoir."

This morning Egyptian army units crossed the canal to take over the evacuated zone from UNEF and for the first time since June, 1967, Egypt's red, white and black flag flew over the entire 100-mile length of the Suez Canal on both of its banks.

The final phase of disengagement along the Suez was completed 24 hours ahead of the timetable set by the accord Israel and Egypt reached on Jan. 21. UNEF teams, each accompanied by an Israeli or Egyptian liaison officer, began their inspection of the zones now held by each side to determine among other things whether the disengagement provision calling for a thinning out of armed forces by both sides was being observed. They made their report to UNEF Commander Gen. Ensio Sillasvuo who relayed it to UN headquarters in Cairo. The latter confirmed this morning that the disengagement agreement was being carried out to the letter.

### Egyptians Demolish Missile Sites

Israeli officials also reported that the Egyptians have demolished all missile sites built on the east bank of the canal. The razing operation was observed by Israeli forces. Egyptian forces on the east bank have given permission to Israeli officials to continue to search for the bodies of missing Israeli soldiers believed to have been killed in the areas now under Egyptian control. It was learned yesterday that Egyptian forces east of the canal are less than the maximum allowed by the disengagement accord. This was not considered to be of military significance since the Egyptians can concentrate their forces on the west bank under an umbrella of SAM missiles, Israeli officials said.

Israeli sources stressed that Egypt's re-occupation of both banks of the Suez Canal permits Cairo to begin clearing the waterway for navigation and rehabilitating canal-side towns and villages for the return of their civilian populations. In the Israeli view, these operations will further reduce the likelihood of renewed hostilities.

The new Israeli lines extend from Baloosa in the north to a point south of the Eyun Moussa water wells on the west shore of the Sinai peninsula fronting the Gulf of Suez. The lines run just west of the Jidi and Mitla passes. The Israeli and Egyptian zones are separated by a buffer zone manned by UNEF troops. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

## EURO-ARAB COOPERATION LAUNCHED

BRUSSELS, March 4 (JTA)--The Council of

Ministers of the European Economic Community (EEC) decided today to open "a formal dialogue" with the Arab nations to discuss economic, technical and energy cooperation, informed sources reported. The nine foreign ministers reached the decision with surprising rapidity, shortly after today's session opened.

Discussions between the nine Common Market countries and the 20-nation Arab League are expected to develop in three stages, beginning on the individual or ambassadorial level. The formation of mixed specialized work groups will then follow. If these are successful, a joint Euro-Arab foreign ministers' conference is envisaged which may lead to concrete mutual cooperation agreements. French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert initiated the proposal for Euro-Arab cooperation.

In Bonn yesterday, West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel is said to have assured U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that the project for a Euro-Arab conference was not directed against the United States and was in no way in competition with America's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. Scheel also said the project was not an EEC rival effort to solve the energy crisis, which he said, must be resolved on a global basis.

## MRS. MEIR POSTPONES HER FINAL DECISION FOR ANOTHER 24 HOURS

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--The Israel Radio, quoting "a senior source" said tonight that Premier Golda Meir has informed President Ephraim Katzir that she will announce tomorrow her final decision on forming a new government. According to the radio report, which was phrased in vague language, Mrs. Meir would announce her decision at a meeting of the Labor Party Central Committee to be held in Tel Aviv tomorrow.

The understanding here was that the Premier has not revised her decision, announced after a Labor Party meeting last night, to relinquish her mandate to form a new government. But she has, for some reason, postponed for another 24 hours, the announcement of her final position. It is understood that if she hands back her mandate Katzir can ask another Labor Knesseter or even a Likud Knesseter to try and form a government. If this too fails then there must be new elections. The law demands at least 100 days preparation for elections. Meanwhile the present government would remain in office as caretaker administration.

Late tonight Katzir announced to newsmen at his residence that Mrs. Meir had decided after all to continue her efforts to form a government until Wednesday midnight--the end of the second week-long extension that Katzir gave her last Wednesday. "I wish her every success in her effort," the President said. Mrs. Meir herself was not available to newsmen. She left the Presidential residence by a back door after her hour-long meeting with Katzir. Thus ended 25 hours of intense and almost unceasing appeals from party leaders and her veteran colleagues to change her mind.

The nation had waited with mounting suspense today for the outcome of the Premier's meeting with Katzir--a meeting postponed during the day from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The postponements gave rise to speculation that she was recon-

sidering her decision to quit as a result of heavy pressure to remain in office from her Labor Party colleagues.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was able to confirm today--as it reported last night--that two seemingly insoluble problems determined Mrs. Meir's decision to give up her efforts to form a new government after more than two months of arduous negotiations with potential coalition partners: the refusal of the National Religious Party to join her Cabinet; and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's apparently unalterable decision not to serve in the next Cabinet and his unequivocal position favoring a national unity government including Likud. Added to this was subtle pressure by President Katzir toward a national unity government which he is known privately to support. (By David Landau)

#### 41 JEWISH MPs IN NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS; 90 NON-JEWISH LABOR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL ALSO IN HOUSE

LONDON, March 4 (JTA)--The new House of Commons has 41 Jewish members and 90 non-Jewish members who are good friends of Israel. Thirty-five Jewish MPs were reelected on the Labor ticket, five on the Conservative ticket and one on the Liberal ticket. The Labor MPs include Maurice Edelman, the novelist; Maurice Ohrbach, director of the Jewish Trades Advisory Council; Ian Mikardo, former chairman of the Labor Party; Dr. Maurice Miller, a former chairman of Poale Zion; and Greville Janner, QC, son of Lord Janner; and Sir Meyer Galpern, former Lord Mayor of Glasgow.

The Conservatives include Sir Keith Joseph, the outgoing Secretary of State for Social Security; and Michael Fidler, former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Martin Cohen, general secretary of the Labor Friends of Israel, told the JTA that 90 members of the new House are members of the Labor Friends of Israel. These include Anthony Wedgwood-Benn, Edward Short, Anthony Crosland; Peter Shore and Raymond Fletcher, who is the chairman of the Parliamentary group of the Labor Friends of Israel.

Non-Jewish Conservatives, dedicated friends of Israel, include Winston S. Churchill, Hugh Dykes, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and John Gort. The leading Liberal non-Jewish friend of Israel is Jeremy Thorpe, head of the Liberal Party. None of the candidates of the National Front, the descendants of the British Union of Fascists, won any seats.

It was noted here that from the point of view of Israel, both Labor and Conservatives are invariably friendlier to Israel in opposition than in the government. Labor's declared policy is to maintain the existing friendship between Israel and the party but to try and continue the existing friendship between Britain and the Arabs.

#### COURT CONFISCATES NAZI MATERIAL

BONN, March 4 (JTA)--A West German court has confiscated posters and other material depicting the Nazi swastika that were to have been used to advertise a new fortnightly periodical called "Das Dritte Reich." The periodical will be published over the next two years by the John Jahn publishing firm in Hamburg. Its first issue is scheduled for publication tomorrow. The publishers say it is a documentation designed to explain the political, economic and social background to the Nazi takeover. The

court has also opened proceedings against unidentified persons for the dissemination and use of Nazi symbols, banned under German law.

These actions followed after Nazi persecutees' organizations in West Germany asked the authorities to ban the display of thousands of swastikas to advertise the new journal. The organizations said such a display is "an insult to the victims of Nazism." Broadcasting stations in Berlin, Munich, Stuttgart and Frankfurt have also refused to advertise the new journal.

#### ISRAELI POWs REPORTED BY RED CROSS TO BE IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION

TEL AVIV, March 4 (JTA)--Red Cross representatives in Damascus who visited Israeli prisoners of war in Syrian camps and hospitals have reported that their condition is satisfactory, it was learned here today. Meanwhile the first letters from POWs to their families were being distributed today by the army's manpower division. The letters were handed over in Beirut yesterday to Michele Convers, the IRC representative in Tel Aviv, who brought them to the manpower division.

Meanwhile, Israel has asked Syria, through the Red Cross, to locate and deliver the remains of 18 Israeli soldiers whose names were not on the POW list provided last week and are presumed dead. It is believed that some of them may have died in POW camps or hospitals but others are believed to have been murdered by the Syrians when they were captured. Some of the missing men are said to be flyers who were seen bailing out when their planes were hit. They are believed to have been murdered by the enemy when they touched the ground.

#### UNEF CHIEF PRAISES ISRAEL, EGYPT

JERUSALEM, March 4 (JTA)--The commander of UNEF, Finnish Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, said today he had seen "a very definite change in attitude" on the parts of Israel and Egypt towards each other during recent weeks. Reporting to newsmen here on the completion of the fifth and last stage of troop disengagement, Siilasvuo said his contacts with political and military authorities on both sides showed him there was now more confidence than before--and this augured well for the future.

The General said he was "very happy with the progress of the disengagement which had proceeded with no problems whatsoever" and it was "very reassuring to see how both parties had complied with the agreement to the letter." He expressed hope the disengagement would be a first step to peace. Siilasvuo has been involved in UN peace-keeping in the Mideast for nearly two decades, having been a member of the 1957 UNEF force. On Wednesday, UNEF will make its first full-scale inspection of the two "limited forces zones" on either side of UNEF's own buffer zone--and Siilasvuo will present the inspectors' reports to the two parties.

He said UNEF had carried out inspections of the various disengagement stages and made its reports--and the parties had no complaints. He said the full-scale inspections of the two zones would be done at regular intervals--the duration of which he did not specify. A machinery would remain for tripartite Israel-Egypt-UNEF liaison officer's discussions when the need arose. UNEF has invited Jerusalem-based newsmen to tour the area Thursday. The same day a tour will be held for Cairo-based newsmen--but the two groups will not meet. (By David Landau)

#### TERRORIST SABOTAGE IN PLANE CRASH?

PARIS, March 4 (JTA)--Civil aviation experts

are not ruling out sabotage as the cause of yesterday's crash of a Turkish Airline DC-10 jumbo jet 25 miles northeast of Paris, causing the death of 346 passengers and crew members, the largest fatalities in aviation history. Palestinian terrorists, or Turkish terrorists working in league with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, may have been aboard the plane and may have spirited aboard bombs which exploded prematurely, sources here indicated.

French officials would not comment today on last night's declaration by the Turkish Minister of Communications, Ferda Guley, that a bomb could have been responsible for the disaster. They said, however, that a Franco-Turkish commission investigating the crash "is looking into all the possibilities."

The sabotage theory was given credence by the fact that six bodies and pieces of fuselage were found nine miles from the crash site, indicating an explosion in the plane while in flight. Turkish terrorists working with the PFLP openly threatened the Turkish government with "reprisals" after several terrorists were killed by Turkish security forces last year.

American experts representing the McDonnell-Douglas Corp., manufacturers of the DC-10, and representatives of Lloyds Insurance Co. are participating in the investigation. Chief pilot Sam Clauzel of McDonnell-Douglas said today that there are several possibilities for the crash. He stressed, however, "It is far too early to know anything definite."

#### SCHULTZ PROPOSES COMPROMISE LANGUAGE IN TRADE REFORM ACT TO AID COMMERCE WITH THE USSR

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--Treasury Secretary George P. Schultz proposed to the Senate Finance Committee today that compromise language be worked out in the Trade Reform Act to resolve the conflict between trade with the Soviet Union and the latter's restrictive emigration policies. Schultz was the first Administration figure to testify before the Committee which opened four days of hearings today on the Trade Reform bill embodying the Jackson Amendment.

Schultz did not say either in his prepared statement or in reply to Senators' questions what he thought the compromise language should be. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency later that he had "no particular proposal" in mind on the language. He emphasized that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger would discuss the Jackson measure when he appears before the Committee Thursday. Schultz indicated that behind-the-scenes activity might be involved to kill or neutralize the Jackson-Mills-Vanik measures which would ban U.S. trade benefits and credits to the Soviet Union until it modifies its emigration policy.

Other Administration spokesmen who appeared today were Peter M. Flanigan, executive director of the Council on Economic Policy, a White House agency, and William D. Eberle, special representative for trade negotiations for the White House. Kissinger, who had been scheduled to lead off the Administration case against the Jackson bill, will testify during the final day of the hearings. He returns tonight from diplomatic missions in the Middle East and Europe.

Schultz pointed out in his prepared statement that the 1973 Trade Reform Act deals with the President's authority to extend equal tariff treatment to "non-market economies" meaning

Communist countries. Referring to the Mills-Vanik measure which is identical to the Jackson Amendment and was adopted by a 4-1 majority by the House, Schultz said:

"Restrictions proposed by the House on the use of this authority and additional provisions which would effectively preclude the continued granting of official credits to some of these countries would, in my view, be extremely ill-advised. I believe, however, that a substitute wording could be found effectively to express the concern of the Congress that the issues of basic human rights not be ignored while not blocking the development of more normal economic relations with the non-market economy countries."

#### Kissinger To Present Administration's View

Schultz told the JTA, when questioned about the nature of a possible compromise, that "that is a matter to be negotiated with the Senators rather than to have it thrown out in public.... The matter must be resolved," Schultz also noted to the JTA that the Administration's "efforts were unsuccessful in the House. It is a tough problem," he said.

Sen. Russell B. Long (D.La.), chairman of the Finance Committee, told the JTA that he was unable to predict when the Committee would offer the trade bill to the Senate and that he has "no idea what the final result will be." Long, one of the 78 Senators supporting the Jackson Amendment, said, however, that "something along that line will be in the bill" although "I cannot predict what it will be in actual language." Flanigan, in his statement, declared that Kissinger would discuss the Administration's "strong reservations" with respect to "the restrictions on granting non-discriminatory tariff treatment and the use of expanded credits in trade with Communist nations."

These developments came as a high ranking 26-member Soviet trade delegation, headed by Foreign Trade Minister Nikolay S. Patolichev, is lobbying in the U.S. with influential members of government and Congress and business groups in a dozen principal American cities. The seriousness of the situation was underlined by reports from the Soviet Union that Jewish emigration from that country in the past few weeks has declined.

The Arab oil embargo was injected into today's hearings by two Committee members, Sens. Abraham Ribicoff (D.Conn.) and Walter Mondale (D. Minn.). Both sharply criticized the Arab oil producing countries for using their economic resources for political purposes. (By Joseph Polakoff)

#### TERRORISTS THREATEN U.S. UK AIRCRAFT

AMSTERDAM, March 4 (JTA)--The two Palestinian terrorists who hijacked a British Airways VC-10 yesterday and destroyed it by fire said their act was to punish Britain for sending aid to Israel during the Oct. war. They threatened that more attacks on British and American aircraft would follow. The hijackers, who identified themselves as Abu Zaid and Abu Ali, made these statements over the airliner's radio system while in contact with the Schiphol Airport control tower.

A passenger said a Jordanian passenger told him that one of the hijackers told him in Arabic "that they were doing this to punish the British for sending British mercenaries to the war in Israel." The hijackers have been undergoing interrogation by the Dutch authorities all day apparently without much result in a place which has been kept secret. Dutch authorities are said to fear new Palestinian attacks on the Netherlands or on Dutch Royal Airline (KLM) aircraft to force the release of the two hijackers.

# UJA YOUNG LEADERS SAY THEY WERE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THEIR SECURITY DURING THEIR DETENTION

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--The members of the United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Cabinet group, who had been detained for 10 hours by the Egyptians, and their wives returned to Kennedy Airport yesterday afternoon claiming the whole incident was overplayed in the American press. Three of the men said that at no time during the incident did they fear for their own security as Americans. But they were worried about the Israelis in their group, the tour bus driver, the guide and the members of the military escort.

The group, which included 40 persons, were touring the western Sinai and were captured by the Egyptians when the bus wandered into Egyptian territory while trying to make a turn back. The UJA members said yesterday that their capture was due to a human error by the Finnish UNEF officers who directed them on the road which led to Egyptian territory.

The group was blindfolded and taken to Egyptian Second Army headquarters in Ismailia. The UJA members said that their film and tape recorder cassettes were taken away from them along with their UJA papers. The wives, who had not been permitted to make the trip, first learned of their husbands' predicament some six hours after it happened when they returned to Tel Aviv from a local tour. They said they were constantly reassured by Israeli officials of the safety of their husbands.

## PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT MAY BE USING ZEITLIN AS A SCAPEGOAT

WASHINGTON, March 4 (JTA)--An informed American source here said today that the Philippine government may be using Arnold Zeitlin, the Associated Press Bureau Chief in Manila, as a scapegoat to convince Arab diplomats that it is not mistreating the country's Moslems. Zeitlin, who is Jewish, was blamed by the Philippine government last week for a setback in its relations with Arab oil countries for the dispatches he wrote last month on the fighting between Moslem rebels and the Filipino government troops. The American source noted that the Middle East provides 80 percent of oil used in the Philippines.

Primitivo Mijares, chairman of the Philippines Media Advisory Council, a group set up last May by President Ferdinand E. Marcos to license and control the press, said that if the Philippines were deprived of oil supplies or if gasoline prices rose, it would be "thanks to Mr. Zeitlin." The Council, in a letter last week to the newsmen, accused him of malice and warned native employees of the AP in Manila that they also would be held "liable" for Zeitlin's reports. Zeitlin is the only foreign national in a news agency in Manila.

Mijares, who is also a correspondent for the Manila Daily Express, accused Zeitlin of trying to "alienate the Philippine government and the people from the Arab world." In reporting the Council's action demanding that Zeitlin appear for a hearing before it last Thursday, the Express said that the journalist had "pronounced pro-Israel sympathies." Zeitlin refused a summons to appear at the hearing. He wrote the Council stating that the government had assured foreign correspondents that their reports sent abroad would not be censored and that Philippine Foreign Secretary Carlos Romulo himself had assured AP headquarters in New York that for-

eign journalists would not be placed under Council control.

## Case Being Treated With Delicacy

Romulo sent a letter on Feb. 20 to the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait describing Zeitlin as "suspected of being a Jewish journalist" and claimed that his dispatches describing the fighting were false. Informed U.S. sources in Washington said they could not believe Romulo, now almost 80 years old, had actually drafted the accusation which was carried in a press release issued by the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong.

The Philippine Embassy's press counselor in Washington, Abelardo L. Valencia, said the case is "not something we are particularly interested in here," but noted that it is "a little odd" that his government's announcement was made in Hong Kong. He said "no one asked me about it here" until the Jewish Telegraphic Agency phoned him. The case is being official treated here by American and Philippine officials with much delicacy.

The Philippines has been shaken by numerous outbursts of violence by workers, peasants and radical students protesting against rampant inflation, corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency and a per capita income of about \$200 a year for about 75 percent of the total population of some 38 million. About five percent of the population are Moslems. There are some 500 Jews in the country.

## MOSCOW HUNGER STRIKE ENDS

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--David Azbel and Ida Nudel ended their hunger strike last Friday, it was reported today by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The SSSJ said it learned about this when it called Moscow to find out how the two Jewish activists were faring. According to the information the SSSJ received, Azbel ended his action after three weeks because he was too ill to continue. Ms. Nudel ended her action after one week because she felt that she had made her point known. Two other hunger strikers, Vitaly Rubin and Vladimir Galatsky ended their hunger strike last week. The four Moscow activists engaged in their action to protest against the refusal by Soviet authorities to grant them exit visas.

## COMPUTER CONCLAVE DUE IN JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, March 4 (JTA)--The second Jerusalem Conference on Information Technology will take place from July 29 through Aug. 1, it was announced here by the Jerusalem Economic Conference Computer Committee through the office of the Government of Israel Investment Authority.

The theme of the conference will be "Computers for Social and Economic Development." The program will include invited papers by internationally renowned authorities; discussions dealing with such topics as university administration, health care delivery systems, urban planning, national manpower planning, education, public utilities planning and tourist facilities planning; and a computer exhibit. The conference, although international in scope and content, will provide the opportunity to examine the Israeli experience in using computers to promote development.

Papers submitted to the conference will be chosen for presentation by an international panel of referees. There will be two prizes of \$500 each for the most interesting paper and for the paper judged to be most appropriate to the theme of the conference. The first JCIT held in Aug. 1971, was highly successful, attracting participants from 40 countries outside Israel, as well as hundreds of Israeli professionals.