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DAYAN: NORTH KOREAN, CUBAN TROOPS MAY BE AIDING SYRIAN FORCES

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)--Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said on a television interview here today that he had reason to believe that Cuban and North Korean troops were serving alongside Syrian forces on the Golan Heights in addition to troops from other Arab states. He placed the size of the Cuban force at a brigade.

Appearing on the NBC-TV "Meet The Press" program, Dayan, who concluded two days of meetings here with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, and a meeting last night in New York with United Jewish Appeal leaders, also said he believed Soviet-made anti-aircraft missiles in Syrian hands were in some ways superior to the American weapons supplied to Israel. But he indicated that the superiority of the Soviet weaponry was limited to ground-to-air missiles. U.S. anti-tank artillery supplied Israel was satisfactory, he said. Dayan stated he did not believe the Soviet-made Scud missiles in Egypt were equipped with nuclear warheads. The Scud has sufficient range to hit Israeli population centers from Egypt.

Dayan declined to describe the Israeli proposals for disengagement with Syria that he presented to Kissinger. He said he was "hopeful... not more than hopeful" that Israel and Syria would reach a disengagement accord on the Golan Heights. (See separate story on Dayan's meetings with Kissinger and UJA leaders.)

HEAVY FIGHTING ON SYRIAN FRONT

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)--Heavy fighting continued on the Syrian front for the 20th consecutive day amid signs that the Syrians were escalating and extending the scope of combat. Syrian gunners shelled Israeli positions today in the hours before dawn, continuing their recent habit of initiating artillery duels after dark. The shelling, aimed at Israeli forces in the northern section of the Yom Kippur War enclave, began at 3 a.m. local time and continued until 6 a.m. Earlier, the Syrians precipitated close quarters combat for the first time since the Oct. war when they attempted to infiltrate scouting platoons behind Israeli lines in the same sector. The Syrians were driven back without inflicting casualties.

But an Israeli soldier was wounded yesterday during artillery and tank duels that continued intermittently throughout the day. Another Israeli soldier was killed Thursday night in an after-dark artillery barrage. He was identified as Mordechai Daudi, 34, of Haifa. On Friday, tank and artillery duels continued from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Syrians opened fire again Friday night, shelling Israeli positions on Mt. Hermon for the first time since the Yom Kippur War. In today's fighting, the Syrians fired Katyusha rockets at Israeli positions in the Tel Antar and Tel Mari sectors captured by Israel in the Yom Kippur War.

NEW ATROCITIES AGAINST SYRIAN JEWS

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--New atrocities against Jews in Syria were reported here this weekend. It was disclosed that Syrian authorities handed over to the Jewish community in Damascus the bodies of two young Syrian Jews repor-

tedly found near the Lebanese border close to where the four Jewish women who were murdered were reportedly found. The bodies of the two young Jews were handed over five weeks ago, according to informed sources here, but news of this did not reach the western world until now.

The two were identified as Natan Shiai, 18 and Kassem Abadi, 20. Shiai and Abadi were understood to have left their Damascus homes about six months ago, reportedly in an attempt to escape from Syria via Lebanon and had not been heard from until their bodies were handed over to Jewish leaders in Damascus. The transfer was made about a week after the funerals of the four slain Jewish women. In both cases--the four women and the two men--informed sources continued to express skepticism that they were slain outside Damascus. They continued to express belief that the six victims were killed in Damascus and that their bodies were taken to the area near the Lebanese border where they were "found" by Syrian authorities.

The sources also reported that three Syrian Jews have been held by Syrian authorities since Sept. 1971. One was identified as Albert Aliyah and the other two were identified only by their surnames as Sweid and Katari.

Protests Mounted By Two Groups

Meanwhile, the New York Board of Rabbis expressed shock at the continuing terror "encompassing the economic, cultural and religious areas of life" of the Jewish community. Focusing on the "rape and torturing to death" of the four Jewish women--the three Zeybak sisters, Tinei, 22, Laura, 23 and Farah, 24, and Eva Saad--Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Board, declared: "Fear mounts that this outrage may herald a renewal of killing and persecution which has frequently marred the recent history of Syria. We call upon the world to bring pressure to bear on the Syrian government to grant those who want to leave the right of emigration."

At the same time, Abner J. Mikva, chairman of the Chicago Committee of Concern, accused the Syrian government of being responsible for an "act of barbarism" in the murder of the four Jewish women. Addressing an emergency meeting of the Committee, Mikva called for "renewed efforts on the part of all concerned Americans on behalf of the captive Syrian Jewish community." He added: "While the Syrian government has denied responsibility for this act of barbarism, the blame for the murders must be laid at the government's doorstep. In light of these tragic events, it is imperative that renewed protests be made to the Syrian President and (the Syrian) Ambassador to the United Nations."

DAYAN CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL, ARAB NEIGHBORS

By Yitzhak Rabi (New York) and Joseph Polakoff (Washington)

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan displayed cautious optimism here last night over a peace settlement between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Addressing 300 American Jewish leaders at a United Jewish Appeal dinner after a weekend of talks in Washington with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Dayan said that never before in its 26 years of existence had Israel encountered "such a constructive attitude.

from the Arab people with regard to peace." He said that Israel for its part was ready to "negotiate with everybody in the Middle East, including the Palestinians....God knows who they are," but stressed that Israel had to remain militarily strong and indicated that it was asking the U.S. for more military equipment. He said he hoped "we will get what we want."

The Defense Minister warned, however, that a difficult road lay ahead. He stressed that negotiating a disengagement agreement or even a cease-fire with Syria will be much more difficult than with Egypt. He played down the reported Egyptian violation of the disengagement accord--as he had earlier in the day to reporters in Washington--saying that with regard to disengagement, Israel had "no serious complaint" against Egypt.

Dayan did not disclose the substance of his talks with Kissinger--three hours Friday and 90 minutes Saturday--but hinted that progress was being made in connection with an Israeli-Syrian separation of forces. He observed that the Middle East "never had such a good mediator" as the Secretary whom he described as "very capable" and "dynamic."

Syrians Seem Interested In Accord

With regard to Syria, Dayan said that despite "the wide gap between the two basic positions" the Syrians seemed interested in an agreement. He said he based his belief on the fact that Damascus, knowing the Israeli position, nevertheless will send a representative to Washington to discuss negotiations. (A Syrian representative, so far unidentified, is expected to arrive in Washington April 11 for meetings with Kissinger, it was disclosed yesterday. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is expected in the capital at the same time for talks that are expected to include the Middle East.)

Dayan said of an eventual accord with Syria that "it will not be a peace agreement. If we reach a real cease-fire, that will be enough." He stressed that nobody could stop the Syrians from fighting but the Russians, not even the Americans. "Only the Russians can do it," he said. He added that Israel, too, would have to convince the Syrians that it was "not worth fighting." Dayan observed that this year will be the most important "for Israel and the Jewish people" with respect to peace talks. He noted that there are now four parties to any Mideast settlement--Israel, the Arab states, the U.S. and USSR. He said there was "some kind of coordination" between the two superpowers on the Middle East.

Dayan told the UJA audience that Israel recognized that the U.S. had other interests in the Middle East apart from keeping Israel alive. He listed those interests as the energy problem, relations with the Arab states and competition with the Soviet Union. He referred to the resumption of formal diplomatic relations between Washington and Cairo as "a great achievement" but did not elaborate.

Dayan told the UJA leaders that he had come to the U.S. at this time for two reasons--to discuss an Israeli-Syrian disengagement process with Kissinger and to meet with the leadership of the American Jewish community. The Defense Minister presented Kissinger with Israeli disengagement proposals and a detailed map at the State Department Friday. Kissinger later described the proposals as essentially the same but "more elaborate" than Israel's first proposals which he conveyed to Damascus last month.

Kissinger-Dayan Talks "Very Constructive"

Meeting reporters after their final meeting

Saturday, Dayan and Kissinger described their talks as a "very constructive" and were hopeful that a disengagement accord would be reached with Syria. "We believe we have a useful basis," Kissinger said. Dayan remarked, "I am really glad I came over here. Fighting we can do at home, but for peace we have to come to Washington and work through the Secretary." Kissinger hinted that the U.S. initiative to bring about an Israeli-Syrian agreement would be undertaken through the medium of "proximity talks" in Washington rather than by "shuttle diplomacy" between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Kissinger indicated that Dayan would be in Washington again. Asked what specific bilateral issues were discussed, Kissinger replied, "assurance of regular return visits of the Defense Minister." When a reporter asked Kissinger, "Are we ever going back to Geneva?" the original site for a Mideast peace conference, the Secretary replied, "We do not have a target date but we expect to."

Dayan was particularly conciliatory toward the Egyptian government. Responding to questions, he said he did not know whether the Egyptians had removed "all the guns" that Israel charged had been illegally moved to the east bank of the Suez Canal in violation of the disengagement accord. "There is a dispute about it," he said, and that "the way I interpret the agreement, it was not carried out." He said the United Nations Emergency Force commander, Gen. Ensio Siilasvuo, "has to check it out." However, Dayan immediately added that "I am sure they (the Egyptians) did not introduce any offensive weapons" and that "I do not think Egypt is trying to violate the agreement. I think there was a difference of interpretation and it can be settled."

KREISKY SAYS AUSTRIA WILL END REPARATIONS PAYMENTS TO FORMER VICTIMS OF NAZI PERSECUTION

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)--Claiming that Austria "was not responsible for crimes against Jews during the Nazi regime in Austria," Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky has rejected any further reparations payments to Austrian Jewish victims of the Nazis. In a five-page letter, signed personally by Kreisky, sent to the chairman of the World Federation of Victims of Nazi Persecution, Tuvia Friedman in Haifa, Kreisky explained why Austria will pay no more and underlined that this reply is considered final and official.

Kreisky, who was approached on this matter during his recent visit to Israel at the head of the Socialist International's fact-finding group, explained in his letter that Austria was an occupied state and the persecution of Jews was carried out exclusively on the strength of German laws. Thus, Kreisky noted, Austria was not responsible for what was done and therefore bears no responsibility for reparations.

Kreisky stated that out of a feeling of moral duty the Austrian government had paid some reparations to the Austrian victims of Nazism, totaling about IL 1.100 million of which 90 percent had gone to the racially persecuted (the Jews). He concluded that there is, therefore, unfortunately, no possibility of reopening this matter. "Whatever we have done so far was the maximum possible," Kreisky stated in his letter.

Dr. S. Schoenblum, president of the World Union of Former Austrians for the Defense of Their Rights, said today his organization would now exert pressure on the Knesset to force Foreign Minister Abba Eban to reopen the issue.

NRP VOTES TO REMAIN IN GOVERNMENT Syrian Front Developments Seen As Factor

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)—The National Religious Party voted today to remain in Premier Golda Meir's coalition government despite bitter division within the party over the issue and strained relations, almost to the point of an open break, with Israel's Chief Rabbinate. The NRP's Central Committee voted 296-198 to approve the decision of the party's Executive last month to enter the Cabinet. There were seven abstentions. All of the Central Committee's 501 members participated in the voting.

The margin of approval--59-41 percent--was a fairly substantial one considering the intensive efforts made by the NRP Young Guard, the religious settlers and Orthodox leaders here and abroad to have the decision reversed. The deciding factor may have been the disclosure by Welfare Minister Michael Hazani that "new and grave developments" on the Syrian front had been reported at today's Cabinet meeting. Hazani also said the political situation was serious and aggravating but offered no further elaboration. The NRP's decision averted, at least for the time being, what could have been a major crisis for Mrs. Meir's minority government.

ELAZAR REJECTS VIEW THAT PEACE WITH EGYPT IS UNATTAINABLE

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA)—Gen. David Elazar, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, says he is optimistic about an eventual peace settlement with Egypt and rejected the view of "those who believe that peace is unattainable" and "maintain that Israel must not withdraw a single inch." He said he was convinced that a line could be found, somewhere between the Suez Canal and Israel's pre-1967 borders that would safeguard Israel's security and be sufficiently attractive to Egypt.

However, that would have to wait, he said, until "someone in Egypt will decide that its a good thing they are no longer at war with the Jews, a fact that enables Egypt to develop its country, to stop fighting and start living better." Elazar made his remarks at graduation exercises for Israeli company commanders at a military base last week. They were re-broadcast in part yesterday by the Armed Forces Radio.

He said that basically, "There are prospects for peace in the Middle East, though one cannot predict when this will come about and whether it will be in the wake of the recent war. Withdrawal remains, therefore, a strategic-political consideration. Those who believe that peace is unattainable maintain that Israel must not withdraw one single inch and as far as they are concerned, the next war cannot break out too soon. Thus, they say, 'since there is no chance anyway, let's not budge from where we are now and keep fighting.' I take a more optimistic view," the Chief of Staff said.

He denied that there was dissension in Israel's high command--the so-called "war of generals"--because of Israeli mistakes in the Yom Kippur War. He said the public had magnified the alleged errors. He noted that there were hitches and mistakes made in the 1967 Six-Day War when Israel had three weeks to mobilize, but the public forgot about them in the euphoria of victory. "Today the opposite tendency prevails. Whatever was good is taken for granted while undue weight is given to all negative features and hitches," he said.

DAYAN SAYS HE IS PROUD OF PROTESTING RESERVE SOLDIERS

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)—Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said here last night that he agreed with protesting reserve soldiers in Israel that the nation needed young leadership. But he said the way to achieve that was not by demonstrating outside the Knesset but from inside. "I didn't infiltrate into parliament, I was elected," Dayan said. Dayan spoke during a question session after he addressed 300 American Jewish leaders at a United Jewish Appeal dinner at the St. Regis Hotel here.

Asked about the rising protest movement in Israel, particularly among demobilized soldiers, he said: "I am proud of what they are doing now. They ask for change. They call for a change in the system. The change will come when they are inside." He did not mention that one of the changes demanded by some Yom Kippur War veterans and civilians was his own resignation.

KISSINGER-JACKSON MAY MEET IN APRIL TO DISCUSS SOVIET EMIGRATION POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA)—Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger may meet with Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D, Wash.) on the issue of Soviet emigration policy after Kissinger returns April 10 from his vacation in Mexico, the State Department indicated.

It is also likely that Kissinger will discuss with other members of Congress or with the press the substance of his discussions with Soviet leaders in Moscow for three days last week after he returns in mid-April. He reported to President Nixon on Friday on the results of his Moscow trip. Aides to key Senators on the issue of Soviet emigration and Soviet-American trade said they had no word from the State Department as to when they expected to hear from Kissinger.

State Department spokesman George Vest, asked Friday by the JTA if he would provide some information on Kissinger's discussion of emigration in Moscow, replied, "I do not think that it would be helpful to the persons themselves to go into details." The JTA reporter then asked whether, by "persons" Vest was referring to the 1600 Soviet Jews whose names Kissinger took to Moscow who have been refused exit visas for Israel. Vest said "the subject was discussed" and "I am not going to say anything more at all."

A senior State Department official said that while in Moscow, Kissinger obtained some "clarifications" from Soviet officials on the emigration issue that he would pass on to the Senators sponsoring the Jackson amendment. The official indicated these might be interesting toward a compromise but he gave no indication on what they might be.

It was also reported that Valery Panov tried to contact Kissinger in Moscow last week but his effort reportedly was rejected by Kissinger's aides. Panov reportedly tried, through telephone calls and private contacts, to relay word to Kissinger's staff that he wanted to meet with the Secretary or his aides to discuss his long and futile effort to emigrate with his wife, Galina. (Joseph Polakoff)

TEL AVIV (JTA)—Some 20 Druze settlers of the Golan Heights were detained since the Yom Kippur War on charges of espionage and acts of terror against Israel. Most of them, settlers of the Druze village Majdal Shams on the slopes of Mt. Hermon, were tried and convicted on various charges that connected with violating the state's security.

STATE ANTI-BIAS AGENCY PROHIBS ARAMCO POLICY OF NOT HIRING JEWS

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Following a complaint by the American Jewish Congress, the State Division of Human Rights has launched an investigation to see if the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) is refusing to employ Jews in violation of a 1962 order to "cease and desist" from such religious discrimination. In a letter to the AJCongress, State Human Rights Commissioner Jack M. Sable said he was directing the Division's Bureau of Regulatory Operations "to take whatever other action as may be deemed necessary and appropriate."

The action came in response to a letter from the AJCongress on the basis of a newspaper article stating that ARAMCO was believed to employ "no Jews in its New York and Washington offices." The article, "The Richest Oil Company in the World," by Leonard Mosley in the New York Times Magazine of March 10, said that King Faisal of Saudi Arabia had "made it clear that no Jew must ever be allowed to work in the service of ARAMCO, and every American or European employe of the company must produce proof of non-Jewish ancestry for two generations before being granted a work permit."

Joseph B. Robison, director of the AJCongress' Commission on Law, Social Action and Urban Affairs, wrote to Sable calling the article to his attention. In his letter, Robison recalled that the AJCongress in 1956 had filed charges of employment discrimination on religious grounds against ARAMCO with what was then the State Commission Against Discrimination (SCAD).

After proceedings that lasted more than six years, the human rights unit--now known as the State Division of Human Rights--issued its "cease and desist" order in Sept. 1962. "Compliance reviews were undertaken from time to time in subsequent years," Robison wrote, "but we have not heard of any such review recently." He added that the newspaper report "indicates the necessity of instituting a further compliance review of the employment practices of ARAMCO." In his reply, dated March 26 and made public by the Congress, Sable wrote that he has directed the Bureau of Regulatory Operations to submit its report "to my attention, by no later than April 15, at which time you will be notified."

SYRIA, NOT ISRAEL IS GUILTY OF CONTINUING CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS

UNITED NATIONS, March 31 (JTA)--The Syrians are attributing to Israel "precisely their own violations of the cease-fire and continuing aggression," a spokesman for the Israel Mission said today. He made the statement in commenting on Syrian letters of March 27 and March 28 to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The spokesman added that "the very reports of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization observers which daily verify the unprovoked opening of fire by the Syrian army are cited by the Syrian letters as 'proof' of Israeli attacks."

He said "the most convincing refutation" of such "falsehoods" was to be found in the daily communiques of the Syrian government and army spokesmen in Damascus "which confirm Syria's opening of fire on Israeli military positions and civilian centers as well as on Syrian Druze villages in the area under Israeli control." The spokesman said that the communiques "even reiterate Syria's intention to persist in this campaign of aggression."

RAMAZ SENIORS TO WORK IN STUDY PROGRAMS INCLUDING THE JTA

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--At the annual senior dinner of the graduating class of Ramaz School, the administration, faculty and Board of Trustees of the school said farewell to 19 young men and women who will be leaving in April for a four-month volunteer period on Kibbutz Yavneh in Israel. These youngsters are paying their own way and giving of their own time to work on the kibbutz as replacements for men and women currently serving in Israel's armed forces.

This voluntary effort in Israel is part of the larger Senior Work Study Project upon which all Ramaz seniors embark in April, May and June of their senior year. The 59 members of the graduating class will be working in various educationally productive occupations without monetary compensation.

These occupations include, among others, research in hospitals and medical schools, computer programming, assistance in the conducting of social surveys, and editorial work at the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Eileen Kaufmann and Judy Kuper, the two students who will be working at JTA during the last two weeks in April and all of May, will be involved in regular newsroom work including interviews, rewrite, covering meetings and taking news stories over the phone.

46 U.S. JEWISH LEADERS PLEDGE TO RAISE \$250 M IN CASH BY JUNE FOR HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA)--Forty-six American Jewish leaders have pledged to raise \$250 million in cash by June 30 for the urgent human needs of the people of Israel, following the group's mission to Israel and an intensive study of the Jewish Agency's humanitarian programs. The participants returned last week after meeting with top Israeli and Jewish Agency officers and inspecting projects of immigration, absorption, education and social well-being which are in compelling need of a quarter of a billion dollars in cash from the American Jewish community.

These Jewish leaders, representing 41 American cities, completed their inspection tour "on behalf of the American Jewish community and in the name and memory, of our brothers in Israel." The mission vowed "to commit the entire administration, organizational and creative resources of the National UJA to assisting communities in their cash effort through June."

NEW YORK (JTA)--The campaign to get the Soviet Union to release Valery Panov, will be examined in a filmed report on "NBC News Presents: Special Edition" April 3 (10-11 p.m. NYT, in color) on the NBC television network. A group of noted personalities representing the performing arts will talk about why they are protesting on Panov's behalf. They are Sir Laurence Olivier, filmed in London; soprano Beverly Sills, actress Joanne Woodward, and New York Times dance and drama critic Clive Barnes. Viewers will see Panov in film smuggled out of the USSR. Avrom Zarlitsky is producing the Panov story. Eliot Frankel is the program's executive producer.

NEW YORK (JTA)--A young Moscow Jewish student is holding a hunger strike in the Soviet capital in protest against the denial of his visa, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported here. The student, Viacheslav Fishkin, applied for an exit visa in May 1973 and since then, after he was made to leave school, has been working as a porter.