

daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036 • 1974, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLI - 57th Year

Wednesday, April 3, 1974

No. 65

· ISRAELIS ALERTED TO POSSIBLE AIR ATTACKS SHOULD WAR BREAK OUT ANEW

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--The Israeli public was alerted in television and radio broadcasts last night to the possibility of attack from the air should war break out anew with Syria or Egypt. Both countries are known to possess Soviet-made "Scud" intermediate range misslies that could reach Israel's populated centers. An army spokesman said after the broadcasts that "fit is always good for the civilian' population to be aware of potential dangers, especially in view of the presence of missiles in the Arab arsenal,

The Syrians used Soviet-made "Frog" missiles during the Yom Kippur War. Several hit Migdal Haemek and Gvat settlements, causing extensive damage to houses though only light casualties. The "Frog" carries a half ton warhead. The "Scud" missile has a one-ton warhead and a range of 350 kilometers which makes every Israeli city and town a potential target.

PENTAGON DOWNPLAYS PRESENCE OF FOREIGN TROOPS ON SYRIAN FRONT

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA).—Pentagon sources said today there were no MIG-23 fighter planes in Syria, "forated or uncrated" and said that the presence of foreigners in the Middle East with Arab forces was "not a new development." State Department sources said there were only some "Cuban advisors" and not a brigade in Syria.

These comments were made in response to statements by Israel's Defense Minister Moshe Dayan Sunday on the NBC-TV "Meet The Press program. Dayan said there was a Cuban brigade with the Syrian army and that there were also East Germans and North Koreans stationed in Syria. Before leaving Washington last night he said the Syrians had the Soviet Union's advanced fifther plane, the MIG-23.

Observers said the United States official sources were downplaying Dayan's comments, either out of a desire to avoid political difficulties with the Soviet Union or because of some Congressional pressure regarding Cuba. It was noted here that there is a growing demand in some Congressional circles and among Latin American nations for admission of Cuba into the Organization of American States, which the United States has opposed. The OAS meets in Atlanta April 29.

CONCERN THAT SYRIA MAY TRY TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE AND EGYPTIANS MAY COME TO THEIR AID BY YItzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA).—Re-enforced Israeli units on the northern front were put on high alert today amid indications of an imminent Syrian ground, air and missile offensive to regain territory lost to Israel in the Yom Kippur War. Concern was expressed in some quarters that if the Syrians mount an offensive in the north, the Egyptians would open fire on the southern front.

Syrian artillery and tanks shelled Israeli positions in the southern section of the Yom Kippur War enclave and in the southern Golan Heights this morning. Israell forces returned the fire which continued through midday. No Israell casualties were reported. Today's shooting began the fourth week of fighting on the Syrian. front,

But attention was focussed today on the massing of Syrian infantry, armor and artillery all along the cease-fire line, movements easily visible from Israell observation posts. The concentration of forces coupled with intensified Syrian shelling of Golan Heights settlements and Syrian attempts to infiltrate Israell lines were signs that the Syrians may be planning a large-scale local offensive with territorial objectives.

Egyptian Long-Range Artillery On Canal Bank

An Israeli military spokesman said today that Israeli forces were taking measures to meet any contingency including combined artillery and aerial attacks and the employment of "Frog" medium-range missiles capable of hitting population centers inside Israeli territory. Convoys of Israeli re-enforcements were seen moving along the main Golan Heights roads today. The regional defense system was placed on alert and settlers were warned to prepare for an attack.

o The possibility of some kind of Egyptian action in coordination with a Syrian offensive was not discounted in military circles here. It was disclosed today that the Egyptians have emplaced long-range artillery on the west bank of the Suez Canal capable of reaching the Israeli zone east of the canal. This represents a violation of the disengagement agreement which called for a thinning out of forces on both sides of the waterway. The Egyptians are also known to have concentrated 120 mm, heavy mortars on the west bank, weapons not mentioned in the disengagement accord.

Syrian Units Penetrated Israeli Defenses

The Syrian kidnapping of two United Nations observers behind Israell lines yesterday was the first acknowledgement that Syrian units had succeeded in penetrating Israeli defenses, though only briefly and for a short distance. The two UN officers—Capt. J.A, Mortell of Ireland and Capt. J.J. Holly of the United States—were released today but are in the Italian Hospital in Damascus being treated for cuts suffered when the Syrians forced them to walk bare-footed over sharp-edged basalt rocks. (See separate story for UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's protest.)

The two men were reported missing from their observation post near Tel Marii in the southern section of the Yom Kippur War enclave yesterday after they failed to respond to routine radio calls. It was learned later that they had been surprised by the Syrian infiltrators while sleeping in a wagon near their post about 100 yards inside Israeli lines. The Syrians did not permit them to dress. Their uniforms and shoes were found this morning in their post. Damascus claimed that the two UN officers were not in uniform and were believed by their captors to be Israeli soldiers.

DAYAN SAYS SYRIAN FRONT FIGHTING UNLIKELY TO BECOME A MAJOR WAR

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said on his return from the U.S. today that he did not think the present fighting on the Syrian front would escalate into a major war. "We hope that we shall be able to come to an agreement with Syria," just as Israel and Egypt reached an accord, Dayan said after four days of talks with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and other U.S. Administration leaders. (In Washington the State Department indicated concern over Syria's assaults against Israel. See separate story.)

He said he hoped disengagement negotiations with Syria would start after a Syrian representative visits Washington this month to discuss Damascus' position with Kissinger. The Israeli position was presented to the Secretary by Dayar last Friday. Dayan said that though there was a wide gap between the two sides, neither one had made acceptance of its views a precondition to talks

The Defense Minister went immediately to Jerusalem to report on his talks with U.S. officials at a special Cabinet meeting tonight. Before leaving Washington, Dayan told reporters he was very happy" with U.S. assurances of continued military aid to Israel. In his talks with the Senators and Defense Secretary James Schlesinger he is known to have discussed the performance of Soviet-made weaponry in Syrian hands compared to U.S. equipment employed by Israel. Dayan also disclosed Israell intelligence reports that the Soviets were supplying Syria with supersonic MIG-23 jets, reputedly the fastest and highest-flying combat aircraft in the world. Sabir Cancels Visit To U.S.

Tonight's Cabinet meeting is expected to concentrate on the ominous situation developing on the Syrian front. That situation was given as one reason why Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir cancelled his scheduled departure today on a mission to the U.S. on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. He did not set a new date for his trip. Other reasons for Sapir's change of plans were believed to be the threat of a new coalition crisis sparked by Welfare Minister Michael Hazani's resignation vesterday and an election reform bill which has its first reading in the Knesset tomorrow.

Even before Dayan landed, he was under criticism by some newspapers here for remarks in Washington indicating that Israel was not overly disturbed by the daily Syrian shelling on the northern front. The newspaper Dayar warned that Dayan's words could be misconstrued by the Syrians as an indication that Israel will remain passive in face of future attacks, Observers here expect the Cabinet to issue strong warnings to the Syrians.

WALDHEIM PROTESTS SYRIAN ABDUCTION OF TWO UN OBSERVERS FROM THEIR POST

UNITED NATIONS, April 2 (JTA)--Secretary General Kurt Waldheim lodged a strong formal protest with the Syrian government today over the "taking away" of two United Nations observers from their post on the Syrian-Israeli front during the night of March 31. The protest, which was handed to Syria's UN Ambassador Haissam Kelani, referred to the abduction of an Irish and an American UN officer who were subsequently released in Damascus.

Waldheim did not use the word kidnapping in his formal protest. A UN spokesman repeated, when questioned by reporters on this, that Waldheim's phrase was "taking away." However, he said, the Secretary General's note stressed that such incidents make the job of UN Observers "almost impossible." Kelani

expressed regrets and promised to convey the protest to his government in Damascus, the spokesman reported. He said the UN officers had been taken from their observation post at patrol base 44 apparently while asleep. He said they have since been replaced at the base by two other UN officers.

According to the spokesman. Waldheim also reiterated his concern over the deteriorating situation on the Israeli-Syrian front. The Secretary General met today, at his request, with Kelani and with Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah to discuss the Middle East situation, the spokesman reported,

In another development, preparations were underway today for a meeting of the Security Council to take place possibly next week. to extend the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East which expires in mid-April. UNEF was established by the Security Council last Oct, for a six-month period. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that consultations between Security Council members on the matter have not started yet owing to the reported illness of this month's President of the Security Council, Talib el-Shith of Iraq. A UN spokesman reported that UNEF commander Gen. Ensio Sillasvuo of Finland, is expected here in connection with the Security Council meeting. (By Yitzhak Rabi)

MRS, MEIR, EBAN WISH THE KISSINGERS A MAZEL TOV.

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir has invited Mrs. Henry Kissinger, the former Nancy Maginnes, to visit Israel with her husband the next time the Secretary of State comes here. The invitation was included in a pable of congratulations Mrs. Meir sent to the Kissingers on their wedding over the weekend. Foreign Minster Abba Eban also cabled congratulations to the newly-weds, adding a personal note to his colleague, 4 always knew you were a man of decision."

The Kissingers are honeymooning in Mexico. But the Israeli public became the victim of an elaborate April Fool hoax involving them yesterday, perpetrated by the Israel Radio. In its early afternoon newscast, the radio broadcast an urgent bulletin that the Kissingers had landed in Israel on a surprise visit. The broadcast contained dubbed tapes of Kissinger's voice expressing delight to be in Israel-again and mentioning some plans while here. Only hours later did the radio audience realize it had been duped by tapes edited from previous Kissinger visits to Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—Several sticks of dynamite exploded in a residential area of West Jerusalem this morning but caused no injuries or damage. A passerby was hospitalized for minor shock. Police immediately rounded up scores of Arabs in the vicinity but all but two were released by noon. The blast was the first terrorist act in West Jerusalem in many months. There have been several recent cases of sabotage in the Arab areas of East Jerusalem. Police are taking precautionary measures against a possible upsurge of terrorist activity here during the Passover holiday.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--Leopold Trepper, the one-time master spy, arrived here today. He told reporters that he came to spend Passover with his family and is considering settling in Israel at the end of the year. Trepper, 70, is also seeking medical treatment for a chronic leg ailment. He told reporters at Ben Gurion Airport that he considered his arrival in Israel something of a miracle. Polish authorities granted him an exit visa last year after a three-year struggle on his part.

STATE DEP'T INDICATES CONCERN OVER SYRIA'S DAILY ASSAULTS AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)—The State Department today indicated concern over Syria's continuing darly assaults against Israeli defenses on the Golan Heights but avoided criticizing the Syrian government and cast no light on the presence of Cuban and other non-Syrian forces in that country.

Questioned by newsmen on the intensified Syrian attacks which are now in their fourth well Department spokesman John King said that he would not have "substantive comment" on the fighting but observed that "obviously we are aware of the implications on our peace efforts in the Middle East." King said he still expected the Syrian representative to come to Washington Aprillo, Il or 12 to participate in talks with Secretary of State Henry A, Kissinger on disengement of Syrian-Israeli forces. Kissinger is to return here April 10 from Acapulco where he is honeymooning.

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency whether the State Department has transmitted the map outlining Israel's proposals for disengagement, King said that the map and other elements related to Syria are covered by the "umbrella of diplomatic activities." Kissinger received the map from Israeli Defense, Minister Moshe Davan last Friday.

TEKOAH MEETS WITH WALDHEIM TO DISCUSS SYRIAN FRONT, SYRIAN JEWS

UNITED NATIONS, April 2 (JTA)—The escalation of warfare on the Syrian front and the deteriorating situation of Jews in Syria were matters raised by Israeli Ambassador Yosef. Tekoah with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim at a meeting here today. The meeting was held at the Secretary General's request, a spokesman for the Israeli UN Mission reported. They also discussed the Security Council meeting, scheduled to open within the next few days. to take up an extension of the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Middle East

According to the spokesman, Tekoah stressed the need to impress the Syrian authorities with the seriousness of the situation they were causing by escalating their military action in violation of the cease-fire. Referring to Syrian Jewish women and two Jewish men whose bodies were dumped on a Damascus street. He recalled a proposal made by former Secretary General U Thant that Syrian Jews be allowed to leave Syria. Waldheim promised to deal with the matter which he said was of a humanitarian nature, and one which he has dealt with before, the spokesman reported.

JNF BUYING LAND FROM ARAB OWNERS

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)—The director general of the Jewish National Fund disclosed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the JNF is and has been buying land from Arab owners in the administered territories near Jerusalem and is assisting individual Jews "who wish to buy land" there. According to Shimon Ben. Shemesh, this activity of the Jand reclamation and development agency is independent of any Cabinet resolutions and is undertaken in the knowledge that some of the land could conceivably be returned to Jordan—or to Palestinians—in the framework of a final peace settlement.

Asked what would happen in that eventuality,

Ben Shemesh replied that "exchange bargains will then take place." He indicated that some of the Arab owners want to sell their land precisely because they think it will be returned to them some day as a result of a political settlement.

He said the JNF purchases were mainly in the regions near Bethlehem and Ramallah occupied by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War. He stressed that these purchases have nothing to do with possible annexation of the areas. He pointed out that the JNF, which was founded by the World Zionist Organization in 1901, is duty-bound to buy land for the Jewish people wherever it can do so. He said that in addition to the JNF, some Israeli citizens and private companies are interested in land purchases around Jerusalem.

HEBREW U. APPROVES \$30 M BUDGET

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)—The Hebrew University's Board of Governors has approved an III. 127,750,000 (about \$30 million) for the period April 1-Sept. 20. 1974, it was announced today. A budget for the balance of the 1974-75 fiscal year is in preparation and will be examined in detail over the summer. Beginning with the 1974-75 academic year, the budgetary year will run parallel to the school year, a departure from previous practice.

The Hebrew University's budget for the fiscal year just ended had to be curtailed because of the Yom Kippur War last Oct. The Board of Governors resolved that construction on the Mt. Scopus campus would continue but development on the Givat Ram. Ein Karem and Rehovot campuses would be limited to the completion of buildings begun before the Yom Kippur War. Sam Rothberg was reelected chairman of the Board of Governors for a third successive term.

The Board of Governors meeting was opened in the presence of President Ephraim Katzir. Hundreds of members and their guests from abroad stood in silence as the role was read of the 117 Hebrew University students who died in the Yom Kippur War. Katzir declared, "Let us, the people of Israel and all the Jewish people, remember forever those sons of pure heart, the faithful and the brave who gave their lives in defense of their homeland and their nation that Israel might be secure and at rest."

AGRANAT RECOMMENDATIONS RELEASED

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--The Agranat Committee investigating the Yom Kippur War, recommended the dismissal of Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and other high ranking military officers but cleared Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in an interim report released late tonight, The five-man committee, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Shi mon Agranat, held Elazar responsible for Israel's lack of preparedness for the surprise Egyptian-Syrian attack last Oct. 6. It also recommended the dismissal of Gen. Eliahu Zeira, the intelligence chief and the suspension from active duty of Maj. Gen. Shmuel Gonen, commander of the southern front when the war broke out.

The 35-page interim report cleared Dayan on grounds that he had acted on information given him by the Chief of Staff and the chief of intelligence. The report acknowledged that Elazar directed Israelli forces well, leading them to victory, after the initial setbacks but found that Gonen mishandled, the deployment of forces at the war's outbreak and misjudged intelligence information he received. The report praised Premier Golda Meir for her decision to locall up lisrael's full reserves despite Dayan's recommendation of a partial mobilization for defense, Elazar resigned late tonight.

U.S. WILL NOT 'NORMALIZE'
RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMANY UNTIL
IT AGREES TO PAY WAR CLAIMS
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)—The United States will not "normalize" relations with East Germany until that country commits itself to negotiate claims against it for the depredations of the Nazi regime, according to Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R.WY).

The State Department, Javits said, has declared in a letter to him that it will seek from the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) "a firm and detailed advance commitment to negotiate a claims agreement soon after the establishment of diplomatic relations?" between the two countries. Javits also said the letter had "emphasized" that "only when such a commitment is obtained will we proceed to normalize relations with the G.D.R."

At the State Department following Javits' disclosure, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed that the U.S. government's Foreign Claims Settlement Commission would conduct a registration program to get claims formally registered which has not yet been done in the absence of U.S.-East German diplomatic relations. A Department authority said that the program would include advertising in American newspapers and that "all interested organizations would be advised" on registration of claims.

He said that individuals have written to the State Department over the years about material losses they have incurred as a result of the works of the Nazis. These writings, he said, are maintained at the Department, but he cautioned they cannot be considered formal claims,

Encouraged By State Department Response

Javits said that in a letter to Secretary of State Henry A, Kissinger he had urged that out-standing war claims be settled before the United States recognized East Germany. "In view of the oppressive nature of the G,D,R, regime and the presence in its governmental structure of former Nazis," Javits wrote, "I do not believe our government should be a party to the obvious efforts by the G,D,R, to sidestep its responsibilities respecting actions and developments of Germany during the infamous days of the Hitler regime."

In its letter of reply, signed by former Virginia Gov, Linwood Holton, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, the State Department told Javits of difficulties in achieving a claims settlement as a condition prior to recognition as Javits had urged but indicated that "the soundest way of proceeding" was to obtain East Germany's commitment on negotiation.

Javits said he is encouraged by the State Department's response that it is sensitive to the need for a claims settlement as an integral part of the establishment of U.S.—East German diplomatic relations, "It is now 29 years since the conclusion of World War III" Javits said, "There no longer can be any excuse for not settling all claims growing out of the Nazi-war period. West Germany had made settlements. East Germany must do the same."

DINITZ WARNS SYRIAN WAR WILL NOT REMAIN ONE-SIDED IF THEY CONTINUE

DALLAS, April 2 (JTA)--Ambassador Simcha Dinitz warned here that the war of attrition being waged on the Israeli-Syrian front "would not remain one-sided" if the Syrians continue it, expressed the view that President Anwar Sadat of Egypt "is trying to find a political solution rather than another war" and stressed that Israel, must remain militarily strong because "the Arabs will never negotiate with an Israel they can destroy." The Israeli Ambassador to the "U.S. made those remarks to the 1000 delegates attending the B'nai B'rith Women Triequial Convention here and to reporters at a press conference at the convention hotel.

He reiterated Israel's often expressed intention to rely entirely on its own manpower to fight its wars. "We don't want to be attacked by the Russians, but we don't want to be saved by the United States either. The manpower problem is our problem alone." he said. Dinitz said that the shooting on the Syrian front was not taking as great an emotional and physical toll as might be expected. But he warned that "the potential for war is there." He said he thought Sadat wanted peace "because this is best for Egypt and I think he is strong enough even if others do not join him until later."

Negotiations Present Opportunities

Is rael finds itself in a crucial period as this is the first time in its history that she has "the opportunity to not only be strong enough to avert war but strong enough to try to obtain peace." the Ambassador said. "The process of negotiation is one of many perils, but also one of opportunities. It is this period which will determine whether or not the Middle East can march from an era of confrontation to one of negotiation, or go brough another prelude to yet another war," the Israeli envoy declared, adding, "We must be flexible to negotiate for what is marginal, but have the strength to negotiate for what is essential."

Dinitz also addressed himself to the energy crisis, observing that the Arab oil embargo was "a blessing in disguise" because it "forced America to face the problem, to become independent as far as energy sources are concerned,...You cannot leave the world at the mercy of only those people who happen to have oil."

After a heated debate, the convention adopted a controversial resolution calling for conditional amnesty for Americans who refused to fight in the Vietnam war.

MEMORIAL TO OLYMPIC ELEVEN

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)--A plaque memorializing the 11 Israeli athletes killed by Arab terrorists on Sept. 5, 1972 at the Olympic Games in Munich will be dedicated during the Passover memorial services (yizkor) April 14 at the Ohr Kodesh Congregation in suburban Chevy Chase, Md.

The plaque which will bear the names of the livitims, was made possible by a gift from one of the Conservative congregation's 575 members. The congregation's executive director, Joseph Miller, said that the donor, who asked to remain anonymous "feared these eleven would soon be forgotten and become just another statistic" in the struggle for peace in the Middle East.

OSLO (JTA)—An appeal by four Jews againstsentences imposed on them in connection with the killing of Ahmed Boushicki, a Moroccan national who was suspected of being a terrorist leader, was rejected last weekend by Norway's Supreme Court. Three of the appellants Abraham Gehmer, Sylvia Rafael and Dan Aerbel were given jail terms of five to five-and-a-half years. The fourth appellant, Marianne Gladnikov was sentenced to two-and-ahalf years. Defense attorneys for the four asked that the sentences be reduced.