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NATION STUNNED BY AGRANAT COMMITTEE REPORT; MANY SEE ELAZAR AS SCAPEGOAT

By Tuvia Mendelson and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)—A stunned nation reacted with mixed emotions today to the Agranat Committee's partial report blaming Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and other high ranking officers for costly errors on the eve of the Yom Kippur War while absolving the nation's political leadership. Predictably, many were calling the report a whitewash that made Elazar the scapegoat for misjudgments and miscalculations for which the political leaders were at least equally to blame.

Others felt that no other conclusions could have been reached by the committee at this time in view of the tense and delicate political situation and ongoing military problems. Elazar, in his letter of resignation to the Cabinet last night, said the committee had done him an injustice.

See Page 2 for Elazar's reply to the charges, and separate story on replacements following major shake-up of Israeli high command.

Premier Golda Meir accepted Elazar's resignation with "a heavy heart" and assured the 48-year-old general that he would "remain in the annals of Israel's history as a great soldier and commander." Elazar's most bitter critic, Res. Gen. Ariel Sharon, the Likud leader, would say only that he stood by what he had said in the past and expressed confidence that the army would weather "this crisis." Sharon, whose public differences with the high command sparked a major controversy after the Yom Kippur War, was the first senior officer to call for Elazar's resignation. Another Likud leader, Menachem Begin, demanded that the Cabinet resign in the wake of the Agranat committee's report.

Deals Only With Period Before War

The 35-page report by the five-man panel headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Shimon Agranat covered only the period prior to the outbreak of the war last Oct. 6. Activities during the war itself are still under study by the committee. But the committee's findings to date, based on the testimony of 58 witnesses taken during 140 sessions over the past four months, was an indictment of Israel's top military leadership, excluding Defense Minister Moshe Dayan.

In addition to Elazar, the committee recommended the removal of Maj. Gen. Eliahu Zeira, the intelligence chief; his deputy, Brig. Gen. Arieh Shalev; Lt. Col. Yona Bendman and Lt. Col. David Gedalia. It also proposed the suspension from active duty of Maj. Gen. Shmuel Gonen, commander on the Egyptian front when the war broke out, pending further investigation.

Failed To Weigh Role Of Political Leadership

Israel's outspoken daily press which often mirrors public opinion, accused the Agranat Committee of failure to weigh the responsibility of the civilian political leadership equally with that of the military. The Histadrut daily, Davar, spoke of "obvious discrimination" between the Chief of Staff and the Minister of Defense. The Mapam organ, Al Hamishmar, observed that Dayan was at least an equal partner to the decis-

ions made by the military command. The National Religious Party daily, Hatzofe, said the committee should have verified what was the political role in appointments to the high command.

The independent newspaper, Haaretz, said there was room to wonder to what extent the Defense Minister was responsible for the appointment to top command of men now found unqualified to continue in office. Haaretz claimed that the non-political nature of the Agranat Committee was no guarantee that it would not be biased in favor of the political authorities.

In addition to Chief Justice Agranat, the committee is composed of Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau; State Controller Yitzhak Neben-zahl; and Yigael Yadin and Haim Laskov, both former chiefs of staff. All are regarded as men of unimpeachable integrity.

Highlights Of Report

Following are highlights of the committee's partial report, presented at a special session of the Cabinet last night and made public shortly before midnight: The report said that the intelligence network was "blinded" and thus failed to give the defense forces adequate advance notice of the pending attack. This not only caused a delay in calling up reserve forces to the front but delayed the deployment of forces positioned near the borders to meet an enemy advance.

The basic reasons given for the intelligence failure was "a blind belief" in the preconception that the Egyptians would not go to war until they were able to stage deep air strikes into Israel, particularly against Israel's major military airfields in order to neutralize Israel's Air Force; a related belief that Syria would not go to war with Egypt.

The report found that Zeira had made a firm undertaking to provide the army with adequate warning should war become a certainty when he had no basis to make such a promise. The Army Intelligence Research Department possessed a vast amount of deterrent information which had been supplied both by army field intelligence and other bodies, but because of their refusal to budge from preconceived ideas, the Office of Chief of Intelligence and the head of research did not appraise their information correctly, the report charged.

Unjustifiable Delay In Deployment

The intelligence chiefs claimed that the noted Syrian military build-up was of a defensive nature and that the massing of Egyptian forces in the vicinity of the Suez Canal was nothing more than annual maneuvers, the Agranat Committee said. The report provided minute details of events during the hours immediately preceding the Egyptian-Syrian attack. It said that it was not until 4:30 a.m. on the day of the attack that army intelligence finally concluded that war was imminent but even then it erroneously believed the attack would not be launched until 6 p.m.

The report stated that while army intelligence mistakes were not the only ones that led to Israel's defense forces being caught off guard, "first and foremost there was an unjustifiable delay in the deployment of the reserves." The report continued.

"We are convinced beyond doubt that the Chief of Staff should have requested a call up of reserves in the week preceding the outbreak of hostilities to maintain a realistic balance between enemy forces and Israeli forces along the borders. At the very least, the Chief of Staff should have ordered a call up on the morning of Oct. 5 even if enemy intentions were not entirely clear."

The committee found that despite clear warnings of impending war, no steps were taken to deploy the armored force in the vicinity of the Suez Canal, no clear instructions were given to the commander of the southern front to meet an attack and clear instructions were also lacking on the northern front.

ELAZAR: 'AN INJUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE TO ME. I DO NOT ACCEPT SOME OF THE MAIN FINDINGS...'

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)--Gen. David Elazar strongly defended his actions as Chief of Staff on the eve of the Yom Kippur War last night against the partial report of the Agranat Committee which found him responsible for the Israeli army's lack of preparedness. "An injustice has been done to me. I do not accept some of the main findings of the committee against me," Elazar declared in his letter of resignation, submitted to the Cabinet after the report was made public late last night and which he subsequently read to his fellow officers before taking leave of his office.

Elazar charged that the committee had gone astray by confusing the definition of authority of the Minister of Defense and the Chief of Staff. The Defense Minister, he said, had full operative authority, and all plans and decisions were brought to him prior to the war. It was only during the actual combat that the responsibility was entirely in the hands of the Chief of Staff, he said.

Elazar received a telegram of support from Yitzhak Ben Aharon, one of the Labor Party's most outspoken dissidents who agreed that the Agranat Committee had been misled into directing its criticism against the army and not against those with parliamentary responsibility for the mishaps.

In his letter, Elazar said: "The committee found that according to information in his hands, the Chief of Staff should have called for a partial mobilization of reserve forces at the beginning of the week preceding the war in order to maintain the proper balance between enemy forces deployed against us and our forces. I submit that both during the time that I have been Chief of Staff and before then, the Israel Defense Forces did not maintain the proper balance because of a series of basic reasons well-known to all the responsible parties concerned. Among these there was a reliance on warnings by our intelligence. This time there was no such warning and the committee has not established that the lack of such warning was my fault."

Denies Lack Of Proper Defense Plan

Elazar continued, "I deny the findings of the committee that a proper defense plan in detail was not prepared in case regular forces would have to fight alone to stop the enemy simultaneously on the northern and Egyptian fronts. The truth is that there was such a plan for both fronts. The plan was well known and rehearsed even by lower command levels."

Elazar denied the report's assertion that no clear instructions were given to the southern and northern commands on how to meet enemy at-

tacks. He also challenged the committee's contention that on the eve of the war he had asked for only a partial mobilization for defenses and that he had overestimated the regular army's ability to repel a two-front attack without support from the reserves. He said that he had in fact demanded full mobilization based on "my evaluation of the need for forces in case of war for which purpose counter-attacks would be an integral part of an efficient defense."

Elazar concluded: "It is beyond my understanding why the committee is of the opinion that I should have reached the conclusion that the reserve forces should have been mobilized on Oct. 5 while the Defense Minister could not come to the same conclusion when we both had the same information and when no one in the General Headquarters thought or suggested the call up of the reserves. There is no other way but to assume that the committee did not treat the two of us by the same yardstick."

Elazar's resignation ended a distinguished military career that began in the early 1940s when the Yugoslav-born officer came to Palestine and joined the Palmach, the striking arm of the Jewish community's underground defense force, Haganah. Choosing to make the military his career, he joined the Israeli army when the State was established in 1948 and rose steadily in rank. In the 1967 Six-Day War, Elazar was commander of the Syrian front and led the attack which captured the Golan Heights. He was named Chief of Staff on the retirement of Lt. Gen. Haim Barlev in Jan. 1972.

NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

TEL AVIV, April 3 (JTA)--Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Hofi was named acting Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan last night in a major shake-up of the Israeli high command following publication of the Agranat Committee's partial report on events leading up to the Yom Kippur War. He replaces Gen. David Elazar who resigned.

In another change, Maj. Gen. Shlomo Gazit, former coordinator of the administered territories, was appointed chief of the army's intelligence branch, replacing Gen. Elisha Zeira who also resigned in the aftermath of the Agranat report. His deputy, Brig. Gen. Aryeh Shalev, criticized in the report, was shifted from intelligence to command of the Judeaea-Samaria region. Maj. Gen. Shmuel Gonen, who commanded the southern front when the war broke out, was temporarily removed from active duty pending further investigation, in compliance with the Agranat Committee's recommendations.

Meanwhile, speculation was rife as to who would be appointed permanent Chief of Staff. Gen. Hofi's name has been mentioned. So have former Air Force commander Gen. Ezer Weizman; recently retired former Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Israel Tal; Gen. Mordechai Gur, former military attache in Washington; and Res. Gen. Yeshayahu Gavish who left the army to become an executive of Koor Industries.

JEWISH COMMUNITY PAYS LAST RESPECTS TO PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU

PARIS, April 3 (JTA)--In memory of French President Georges Pompidou who died here last night at the age of 62 after a long illness, a special service is to be held tomorrow in the "Grande Synagogue" of Paris, the Central Consistories of France and Paris announced today. According to unofficial reports, the President died of multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow described by medical dictionaries as fatal within 6 to 24

months of its onset.

In a message of sympathy to Mrs. Claude Pompidou, French Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan and Central Consistory President Alain de Rothschild expressed their "emotion and stupefaction" and paid tribute to "the moral and physical courage of the chief of state who assumed his heavy responsibilities up to the last limits of his strength, despite the repeated attacks of a cruel disease."

In a telegram to Prime Minister Pierre Messmer, Rabbi Kaplan conveyed "deep religious condolences" to the government and said the Jewish community joins in the nation's mourning. Alain Poger, President of the Senate, will serve as interim President until the election of a new chief executive. Poger is a member of the board of the "France-Israel Alliance." He is very active in the "Solidarity Committee for Jews in Arab Countries" of which he is a former president.

WILL HAZANI'S RESIGNATION CREATE A NEW GOVERNMENT CRISIS?

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)--Opinion was divided here today over whether the resignation of Welfare Minister Michael Hazani from the Cabinet, effective tomorrow, will precipitate a new government crisis. Many observers believe that after Hazani's departure, the two remaining National Religious Party ministers--Yosef Burg and Yitzhak Rafael--will not be able to withstand mounting pressure from within the NRP and the Chief Rabbinate to quit the government as well.

But supporters of Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment insist that the two NRP ministers will stand firm and that eventually the party will name someone to fill Hazani's seat as well as another vacant Cabinet post being held for the NRP. Hazani announced his resignation Monday after the NRP's Central Committee voted by a comfortable margin Sunday night to remain in the government. He issued his formal resignation at last night's Cabinet session.

The pressure on Interior Minister Burg is believed greater than that on Religious Affairs Minister Rafael. Burg, who served in the last government, derives his principal support from just those elements that want the NRP out of the government as long as it refuses to amend the Law of Return to exclude conversions by non-Orthodox rabbis. These elements include settlers in the religious kibbutzim in Israel and the administered territories, such as the Etzion bloc south of Jerusalem. They are most fearful that the government will make territorial concessions and want the NRP to hold out for a national unity coalition embracing Likud which, they think, would prevent any concessions.

Rafael, who heads the strongest faction in the NRP, gets his support mainly from the three large cities and from Israelis of Oriental origin. He is believed strong enough to withstand the pressures and to pursue his contention that the Who is a Jew issue will eventually be solved satisfactorily if the NRP remains in the government. Rafael's position was upheld by the NRP's Central Committee.

According to some sources, the NRP hopes that new elections may have to be held which would resolve the party's dilemma, at least temporarily. They believe this might come about if the Agrarat Committee's report so outrages the public that the Meir government will fall.

DAYAN SAYS EGYPTIANS EXPECTED TO REMOVE GUNS IN DAY OR TWO

JERUSALEM, April 3 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan declared today in the Knesset that the Egyptians were expected to start removing, within a day or two, unauthorized artillery from the thinned-out area they now hold on the Suez Canal east bank to conform to the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement accord. He made the statement in response to an urgent motion on the agenda from Menachem Beigin, a leader of the opposition Likud.

Dayan added that the removal promise had been made by Egypt to Gen. Ensis Siilasvuo, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, which occupies the buffer zone between the Egyptian strip and the new Israeli Sinai position. Dayan said he did not know whether the Egyptians were keeping their promise.

Dayan reported that UNEF officers originally intended to check the weapons removal during a regular weekly inspection in the middle of next week. However, the Defense Minister reported, Siilasvuo had sent a cable to the Israeli chief of staff yesterday, declaring that if Israel insisted, the inspection would be carried out tomorrow. Dayan said Israel asked for a Thursday inspection. He reiterated his belief that the Egyptians intended seriously to carry out the disengagement pact.

The Defense Minister said that when the problem was discussed at a meeting of the Knesset and Foreign Affairs Committee, he asked that the issue not be brought up at the Knesset because he felt a public debate would jeopardize the efforts of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. He added he did not understand "what interest we have in making it more difficult for the Egyptians to honor the agreement."

But he also declared that there were still 130 mm. guns in Port Said and Port Fuad which should not be there, although their removal was not required by the disengagement accord. He said Israel was continuing to act for removal of those guns.

Israel Determined To Avoid Escalation

Beigin charged that the Egyptians had aggressive intentions. He cited information he said he had received that the Egyptians had built more than 11 new bridges across the canal and that they intended to "move tanks and cannons to the east." Dayan replied that the Egyptians had reduced the number of bridges and that, at any rate, he did not attach much importance to the number of bridges.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources said that Israel was determined to avoid any escalation of the fighting on the Syrian front where the 22nd day of daily Syrian shooting ended last night with no Israeli casualties. There have been five Israeli casualties during those 22 days, officials said. The sources said that, in the debate over the strategy to use on the Syrian front, the decision was to refrain from using its air force to knock out the sources of Syrian artillery fire or against strategic targets.

The decision, it was understood, was based on the possibility that the Syrians might respond with their long-range missiles against Israeli cities. But Israeli forces on the Golan Heights have been appreciably strengthened to face any possible Syrian attack to recapture the Israeli-held salient next to the Golan Heights. Meanwhile, the Syrians continued artillery and tank fire today in sporadic shooting which lasted several hours without casualties to Israeli forces.

U.S. PUSHING EAST GERMANY TO PAY CLAIMS TO VICTIMS OF NAZISM

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--The United States, in seeking "a firm and detailed-advance commitment to negotiate a claims agreement" from the German Democratic Republic "soon" after establishing diplomatic relations, is pursuing procedures similar to that adopted by France and the United Kingdom with the East Germans on behalf of the victims of Nazism. Those two countries established formal relations with East Germany in Feb. 1973 with provisos to negotiate claims arising from the Nazi regime's depredations. The British have "started to move towards negotiations" but the French have not.

In obtaining this information from Western diplomatic sources, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned at the State Department that the U.S. has two steps to take prior to entering talks on claims with East Germany. The first is to set up an Embassy and housing for its staff in East Berlin. An American team was in that part of the old German capital during the past week for that purpose but no arrangements were concluded. Only after that has been arranged will formal relations with the GDR be negotiated. At present "only a small part" of the first step has been accomplished.

The claims themselves will be a long drawn out process that will not even begin until after the negotiations for an agreement about them is established. When the JTA reporter suggested that all claimants would no longer be living when this step is finally taken, an American authority indicated the waiting period would not be that long but he could give no time-table.

While the West German governments have paid DM 43.2 billion for indemnification and restitution payments as of the end of 1971 and will pay an estimated DM 9.2 billion more by the end of 1975, the East German government has made no payments nor any promise of payment. The GDR position is that it will not pay "reparations" for the Nazis. However, at the State Department, the JTA was told that "there is a difference between reparations and claims," indicating that East Germany ultimately will pay claims.

Both the British and French governments have established embassies in East Berlin and have ambassadors to East Germany. The West Germans are expected to have a "representative" there soon but no ambassador because of their "special relationship" with the East Germans. Having embassies in East Berlin, the JTA was told, does not mean any change in the quadripartite status of Berlin as a whole.

TWO SENTENCED IN TERRORIST TRIAL

BONN, April 3 (JTA)--A Munich court this week sentenced writer Willy Pohl, 29, and Wolfgang Abramowski, 30, to 26 and eight months jail respectively for supplying arms to Arab terror organizations. The Arab "Al Farah" group recruited Pohl after he had advertised in the "Deutscher Waffenzournal" for Soviet rapid-fire rifles. The two men are said to have sold weapons of the type used in the attack on the Israeli Olympic team in Munich in 1972.

Pohl and Abramowski are still under investigation for providing support for the Black September and for helping plan the kidnap of prominent Germans to effect the release of the Arab terrorists held after the Munich massacre.

The two men were arrested in Oct. 1972 and are said to have connections with the German right-extremist organization "NS-Kampfgruppe Gross-Deutschland." Their release from jail was demanded by the Arab terrorists who stormed the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Khartoum in March 1973. Pohl is a former friend of Horst Mahler, the left-wing German anarchist leader now serving sentence for armed robbery and other offenses in connection with Baader-Meinhof activities.

FBI SOUGHT TO WIRETAP EBAN

WASHINGTON, April 3 (JTA)--During one of Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban's visits to the United States several years ago the FBI wanted to put a wiretap on him, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark disclosed today. But Clark told Senate investigators that he denied the request because Eban's activities did not threaten the country's military activities. Clark, who was Attorney General in the Johnson Administration, made this disclosure before a joint hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Surveillance and the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure. He offered no further immediate information on the wiretap incident.

150 TOMBSTONES VANDALIZED

PARAMUS, N.J., April 3 (JTA)--About 150 headstones overturned by vandals several weeks ago in the Cedar Park and adjoining Beth El cemeteries are still on the ground, according to Simon Zinn of the Bronx, N.Y., who visited the cemetery yesterday. Attempts by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to elicit information from the jointly-owned Jewish cemeteries proved fruitless. A man who identified himself as Mr. Levy said "we're taking care of it" but would not explain what this meant. The Bronx man said he was moved to tears by the vandalism. Paramus police said they did not handle the incident but recalled that about 148 tombstones had been overturned about three weeks ago. The cemeteries also abut Emerson and Washington Township but police in the two municipalities did not recall the incidents.

SYNAGOGUE BOMBED IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, April 3 (JTA)--A bomb blast at the Sephardi Yeshurun synagogue yesterday morning caused considerable damage to the building but no one was present in the synagogue at the time, police reported today. The explosion shattered windows, cracked walls and broke the main entrance door. Neighbors said the bomb had been placed by several men who fled in a car.

The DAIA, the central agency for Argentine Jewry, declared in a cable to Interior Minister Benito Llambi, that the explosion was the culmination of a recent anti-Semitic campaign, linked to the actions of "foreign groups endowed with enormous economic resources, who try to transfer to our country the problems of the Near East, disturbing the process of national development." The reference was understood to be to Arab groups in Argentina.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, Mayor of Haifa and former Minister of Labor, announced yesterday in the Knesset that he will have to resign from the Knesset, as his post as Mayor demands his full attention. Almogi did not mention an exact date in which he intends to resign.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA)--The new Israeli ambassador to Argentina, Ram Nirgad, presented his credentials Monday to President Juan Peron.