



daily news bulletin

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ISRAEL IN CONTACT WITH WASHINGTON OVER THE \$2.2 B AID PACKAGE

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported yesterday to the Cabinet that contacts with Washington are continuing in connection with the \$2.2 billion in aid to Israel which the U.S. has promised. The U.S. Congress voted the \$2.2 billion as an aid package last Dec. but specified that Israel should repay \$700 million. Congress also stipulated that President Nixon should determine how much of the remaining \$1.5 billion would be a gift and how much would be in credit sales.

Well placed sources here said they still hoped that the entire \$1.5 billion would be a grant. The sources said they were unperturbed by the current delay and recalled that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger had indicated to both Eban when he visited Washington about two months ago, and to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan when he was in Washington two weeks ago that the sum would come through as Israel hoped.

These hopes were expressed even as a bureaucratic wrangle developed between the State Department and the federal Office of Management and Budget over how much of the \$1.5 billion would be in outright grant. The Office of Management and Budget is arguing that Israel should pay for all the aid.

The State Department wants most of the funds given as a grant. When Kissinger was asked about the status of this money at a closed meeting last week of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee he was reportedly evasive and said the decision is now up to Nixon. According to reports, a decision will be announced within the next few weeks as part of the Washington Administration's budget presentation for foreign aid in fiscal 1975 which begins in July.

FIGHTING ON MT. HERMON CONTINUES

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA)--Fighting continued today between Israel and Syria as Israeli forces dug in atop the snow covered peak of Mt. Hermon. The peak, which was under heavy Syrian artillery fire all day, was visited by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who inspected the position and talked with the officers and men. Two Israeli soldiers were wounded while Dayan was there.

Dayan was told by the troops on Mt. Hermon, who are fighting in three feet of snow, that the thin air on the summit makes every physical effort difficult. But Israel has decided to keep its forces permanently on the peak because of Syria's continued efforts to recapture it.

Reserve Maj. Gen. Chaim Herzog, Israel's foremost military commentator, said he expected Syria to continue trying to retake the peak for political and strategic reasons. He said the Syrians wanted to be able to negotiate a separation of forces agreement from a position of strength. They would also like to retake the area because of its value as a high observation point overlooking wide areas of Israel, Syria and Lebanon. Israeli forces can now observe from the Mt. Hermon peak Syrian positions as far back as Damascus.

Meanwhile it was reported from Beirut that

the Lebanese army has moved tanks, armored cars and personnel carriers into the southern areas bordering Israel in the wake of Israel's raid last Friday.

THREE SABOTAGE INCIDENTS REPORTED

TEL AVIV, April 15 (JTA)--An act of sabotage failed early yesterday afternoon when a mortar shell attached to a detonation device proved to be a dud. The 52-mm. shell and device was placed in a Netanya park that was crowded with mothers and their children as well as by elderly people and tourists. Shortly after noontime the device was activated and exploded but failed to trigger the explosion of the shell. Aside from a loud noise there was no other effect. Netanya, which is close to the West Bank town of Tulkarem, is frequently visited by Arabs from the West Bank. Police rounded up some 50 Arabs for questioning.

In another incident shortly after midnight Saturday in Rishon le Zion, an explosive charge went off prematurely and injured three Arab terrorists from Gaza who were riding in a taxi toward Tel Aviv from the Gaza Strip. The three were carrying the home-made explosive device in the taxi and were driving through the main street in Rishon le Zion when it exploded. The driver lost control of the cab and it crashed into a station wagon. A passerby succeeded in nabbing two terrorists but the third escaped. He brought them to the police station and from there to the hospital where they were treated for burns.

Police set up a roadblock and trapped the third occupant. He was on his way back to Gaza but police noticed his burns and he was arrested. Police questioned the trio and more arrests of Gaza Strip terrorists are expected.

Today, however, saboteurs were successful in knocking out the central telephone exchange of Ramallah on the West Bank, according to reports. The wiring of 1200 pairs of cables which provide the town with telephone service and connection with the rest of the West Bank and Israel were burned out after someone entered the exchange building and set fire to the cables. Police are searching for the arsonist.

KIRYAT SHEMONA RECEIVES AID FROM GOVERNMENT, JEWISH AGENCY AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)--Aid poured into the grief-stricken town of Kiryat Shemona over the weekend and more has been promised. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir visited the town today to discuss the possibility of investments in new industrial enterprises there, though he stressed there was no problem of unemployment.

Sapir told the Cabinet yesterday that IL 30 million has been ear-marked for the development of Kiryat Shemona which was a frequent target of terrorist assaults even before last Thursday's massacre of 16 local residents and two others. The government acted following widely publicized criticism by townspeople of what they charged was apathy and negligence by the authorities toward their plight in the past.

The Jewish Agency Executive decided at a meeting today that it would build three new kindergartens and two day-care centers for children at Kiryat Shemona and to speed up the con-

struction of a religious high school. Proposals were heard at the meeting to establish an additional absorption center in the town and a home for the aged. The Executive is also considering recruiting volunteers from abroad to serve there as social workers. Acting chairman Leon Dulzin is expected to visit Kiryat Shemona in the next few days to consult with Mayor Avraham Aloni and the town council on other aid measures. The Zionist Executive is launching a major propaganda drive titled "Zionism and Terrorism."

Kiryat Shemona has a large immigrant population of North African extraction. The Jewish Agency operates an absorption center in the town and high schools established by the Agency's education foundation. Today's meeting of the Agency Executive undertook to consider ways to enlarge the existing projects and initiate new ones. The United Jewish Appeal Executive met in Jerusalem Friday and conveyed to Kiryat Shemona its sympathy and determination to continue development projects in that town.

Meanwhile the Yanosiz Kortzhak school, which was the first building occupied by the terrorists when they invaded Kiryat Shemona last Thursday morning, re-opened today and most of its pupils attended classes. The damage, mostly broken windows, has been repaired. But soldiers were stationed on the roof and border police patrolled the school grounds.

Knesset To Discuss Tragedy

Several thousand high school students attended a mass rally in Tel Aviv today on the Kiryat Shemona tragedy. They were addressed by Mayor Shlomo Lehat, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Likud leader Menachem Begin. A number of students who visited Kiryat Shemona, since the massacre described what they saw. Lehat said that hundreds of Kiryat Shemona youth have been invited to spend several days with Tel Aviv families.

In other actions, the city of Haifa has decided to "adopt" Kiryat Shemona. The Jerusalem municipality has ordered all necessary assistance for reconstruction. As a first step it has turned over to Kiryat Shemona funds earmarked for the Mimuna festival, a traditional observance of North African Jews during the Passover week which was cancelled because of Thursday's tragedy.

The Housing Ministry has placed IL 1 million at the disposal of the Kiryat Shemona municipality to aid the families of massacre victims. The Minister of Housing, in addition, has offered 17 flats to families whose apartments were damaged during the battle with the terrorists. In the town itself, electric workers began repairing downed power lines. Interior Minister Yosef Burg said he had decided to grant Kiryat Shemona (and Upper Nazareth) the status of full-fledged towns even though their population fell below the 20,000 minimum usually required for this status.

At the same time, Likud leader Arik Sharon has demanded a full-scale inquiry into what he alleges were blunders by the army command that led to the terrorist infiltration of Kiryat Shemona. The Likud has called for a Knesset session this week to discuss the attack and its repercussions. The Knesset will convene in special session Wednesday to discuss the Kiryat Shemona tragedy.

U.S. ARMS FOR ARABS

American supply of arms for Arab states was confirmed here today. The State Department said that Saudi Arabia will receive American military training equipment and construction "exceeding" \$300 million over the "next five or six years."

Meanwhile, the Moroccan government was reported also to be making intensive efforts to secure military support from the U.S. Foreign Minister Ahmed Taibi Behima paid "a courtesy call" on Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger this morning "at the request of the State Department," the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed at the Pentagon. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met the Moroccan official yesterday in New York. The U.S. has long been a supplier of military aid to Jordan and Lebanon, some of which were gifts.

In discussing the Saudi Arabia-U.S. military agreement signed yesterday in Riyadh by U.S. Ambassador James Akins and Prince Abdullah, head of the desert kingdom's National Guard, the State Department specifically said Phantom jets were excluded from the program. Israel had protested against providing the Saudis with Phantoms because they would be used against Israel by the Saudis directly or made available to other Arab countries for use against Israel.

State Department spokesman John King said the purpose of the military program is to modernize Saudi Arabia's National Guard which is responsible for internal security and the "physical security of the oil fields."

SAPIR SAYS HE IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR PARTY LEADERSHIP OR PREMIER

JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir insisted last night that he was not a candidate for leadership of the Labor Party and the Premiership--and that he really means it. Sapir met with reporters in his office after a three-hour session with a delegation of ex-Mapai leaders who reportedly tried to convince him that he was the only figure who could re-unite the party and form a new government without new elections.

But Sapir indicated that he believed new elections are unavoidable. He thinks they should be held next fall after the Agranat Committee has submitted its final report on the Yom Kippur War and after the completion of the new voter registration which will add some 100,000 young voters to the rolls.

The deputation that visited Sapir yesterday included Labor Party Secretary General Aharon Yadin, Moshe Baram, chairman of the party's Jerusalem branch and Sapir's close associate, Housing Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, the ex-Mayor of Tel Aviv who heads the powerful Tel Aviv-based "Gush" faction within the Labor Party. But the Finance Minister remained adamant.

Labor Party May Opt For New Elections

While a certain amount of cynicism usually greets protestations by politicians that they are not candidates for high office, the general feeling is that Sapir is sincere and politically more astute than his supporters. He understands that there is little hope of his forming a government without elections, observers said.

Sapir's position has increased the likelihood that the Labor Party will opt for new elections rather than try to select a new leader at this time to replace Mrs. Golda Meir. The party's leadership bureau and its Knesset faction are scheduled to meet here tomorrow to reach a decision. In the unlikely event that they decide to attempt to form a new government, the party's Central Committee will convene next week to elect new leaders.

TEKOA ACCUSES LEBANON OF AIDING, ABETTING TERRORISTS WHO MURDERED 18 PEOPLE IN KIRYAT SHEMONA

UNITED NATIONS, April 15 (JTA)—Israel today flatly rejected Lebanon's contention that it did not harbor the terrorists who massacred 18 persons in Kiryat Shemona last Thursday. "We have come before the Security Council to point again an accusing finger at the government of Lebanon and all others which harbor, assist and cooperate with Arab terrorist organizations and to emphasize that they will not be absolved of their obligation to prevent armed attacks against Israel, whether by regular forces or by irregular forces," Israel's UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah told the Security Council this afternoon.

The Council convened to hear Lebanon's complaint over Israel's commando raid Friday against six villages in southern Lebanon which Israel claimed were used as terrorist shelters. Lebanon has denied that the three gunmen who murdered civilians in Kiryat Shemona came from their territory.

Tekoah, calling the outrage "murder for murder's sake," enumerated a long list of terrorist assaults against Israel from Lebanese territory during and since the Yom Kippur War in which Lebanon was not a belligerent. He also described in detail the infiltration of Israel by the Kiryat Shemona terrorists from Lebanon April 11, how their tracks were spotted by an Israeli border patrol which followed them to Kiryat Shemona where "the terrorists were already on their sanguinary rampage."

The Israeli envoy recited the names of the 18 victims, eight of them children. He quoted international wire service dispatches on the following day's commando raids by Israel to confirm that the action was not revenge-motivated retaliation but intended to warn the Lebanese authorities to shoulder their responsibilities against terrorists.

"It is to be noted that the Israeli action was directed not against terrorist bases on Lebanese soil but against the houses of known terrorist collaborators including homes of villagers in which the murderers had stopped over on their way to Kiryat Shemona," Tekoah said. "Our objective at the time was political, not military," he declared.

Israel Resolved To Achieve Peace

The Israeli envoy also warned that Israel's present attitude and mood must not be misjudged. "The introspection which characterizes Israel's political life today, springs from a search for the most effective way to cope with these dangers and with the challenges of the times," Tekoah asserted.

"Behind this introspection there is a fundamental unity of purpose and a profound national resolve. The people of Israel are one in their desire and hope for peace. Israel has sought peace with its neighbors since independence. It is happy that now negotiations with the Arab states and the conclusion of agreements with them are no longer distant aspirations. It looks forward to a joint constructive process of peace-making with the Arab states," Tekoah said. But, he continued, "The government and people of Israel remain united as ever in their determination to thwart the use of force and violence against them, to defend Israel's rights and protect its citizens."

Tekoah observed, "We may be on the eve of a new era but not the kind the terrorist leaders

are longing for and speaking of in Beirut." He added: "This will be an era in which the prospects of replacing hostility in the Middle East by understanding, mistrust by mutual confidence, war by peace, will be greater than in the past. However, whether this occurs in the near future or at a later stage, the forthcoming era will find the people of Israel hardened even further by recent developments, edified by the lessons of the new tests through which we have passed and reinforced by the vigor and vitality that comes when youth of body and spirit and thought combines with the discernment of maturity and experience."

Lebanon Calls For Economic Sanctions

Speaking before Tekoah, Foreign Minister Fouad Naffah of Lebanon accused Israel of aggression and urged the Security Council to implement previous resolutions calling for economic sanctions against Israel. "In attacking six Lebanese villages, Israel has committed an armed and obvious act of aggression," Fouad said. He denied Israel's charge that the Kiryat Shemona terrorists came from Lebanon. He said that if Israel felt it had a legitimate case it should have complained to the Security Council.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN: JERUSALEM, April 15 (JTA)—An explosive device went off tonight in a bus only several yards from the Prime Minister's residence, slightly injuring one passenger. Police said Premier Golda Meir was not at home when the explosion occurred. Several suspects have been detained. The bus was enroute from the center of the city to Hadassah Hospital on the outskirts of the city when the explosion occurred.

U.S. WILL OPPOSE ONE-SIDED RESOLUTION

UNITED NATIONS, April 15 (JTA)—An American source said here today that the U.S. would oppose a one-sided resolution by the Security Council but would support "a well balanced" one, indicating that it would favor a resolution condemning both sides in the latest UN confrontation between Israel and Lebanon. The American source made those remarks as the Security Council prepared to meet this afternoon. A U.S. source said that he hoped the Security Council showdown today would not interfere with the progress of peace efforts in the Middle East.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy warned, however, that Egypt would "strike" against Israel if Israel continued to retaliate against Lebanon and Syria. Fahmy's statement, drafted last night and circulated at the UN this morning, said "The Israelis risk setting the whole peace agreement back. We will not stand by and let them strike at Lebanon and Syria."

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met this morning with UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. According to a UN spokesman, they discussed the present situation in the Middle East and the prospects for Israeli-Syrian disengagement. They also discussed "some aspects of UN peace-keeping efforts" in the Middle East, the spokesman said. Kissinger will be the dinner guest tonight of Foreign Minister Fahmy at the latter's hotel suite. It was described as a social occasion.

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The Jewish National Fund and the Beersheba municipality have agreed upon plans for wide-scale afforestation around the Negev's largest city. Three hundred dunams of trees are to be planted this year and 400 more next year. The first area to be afforested adjoins the Ben-Gurion University.

250 CHRISTIANS IN EASTER SUNDAY SOLIDARITY VIGIL FOR SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, April 15 (JTA)--Approximately 250 Christians representing the "Downtown cluster of congregations," here participated yesterday in the daily vigil for Soviet Jews opposite the Soviet Embassy. The Easter Sunday demonstration of solidarity was described by one of its organizers, the Rev. John Steinbruck of the Luther Place Lutheran Memorial Church, as being a "natural occasion" on Easter Sunday. He noted that the solidarity demonstration contrasted with the usage of the holiday in the past when "Easter was a liturgical launching pad for pogroms and persecutions and as such became a terrible distortion and misrepresentation of what Easter should be about."

The representation in the demonstration typified Washington's population which is almost 75 percent Black. Mrs. Eloise Jones, chairperson of the cluster; Dr. Robert Pruitt, pastor of the Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church; Keith Martin, the urban community relations advisor at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church; and the Rev. Steinbruck sought to present letters protesting Soviet treatment of Jews and palms which the participants carried during the vigil to the Soviet Embassy officials. However, two Embassy representatives rejected the letter and the palms.

A telegram of support for the participation in the vigil was received by the demonstrators from Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D.Wash.). The suggestion for yesterday's vigil was proposed two months ago by the Rev. Steinbruck as a program to be called "Exodus 1974."

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR SYRIAN JEWS

CHICAGO, April 15 (JTA)--Special memorial prayers for six Syrian Jews--four women and two men--murdered last month were offered yesterday by Chicago-area congregations during traditional Yiskor (memorial) services, at the urging of the Chicago Board of Rabbis and the Chicago Rabbinical Council. Prayers were also said for the welfare of 4500 Jews in Syria, remnants of a community numbering 40,000 in 1947, most of whom have fled to other lands. The services were part of a national effort to call attention to the plight of Syrian Jewry. Local efforts were coordinated by the Public Affairs Committee of the Jewish United Fund.

The four dead women were murdered on or about March 4 after participating in a peaceful Christian-Jewish demonstration against governmental anti-Semitism. The bodies of the men were found a week later. Syria claims the women's bodies were found near the Lebanon border and implied the women were attempting to cross the border--a right denied Syrian Jews. The French daily, Figaro, said the bodies were found in Damascus. Syrian authorities allege that two Jews, now held prisoner, responsible members of the local Jewish community, are part of a band of assassins responsible for the slayings of the four women.

"The murders and the attempt of the Syrian government to throw suspicion for them on members of the Jewish community raises deep fears for the safety of Syria's remaining Jewish population," said Maynard I. Wishner, chairman of JUF's Public Affairs Committee. The persecution of Syrian Jews has been the subject of many protests to Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations, Haissam Kelani. UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has been asked to intercede in behalf of Syrian Jews by Israeli Foreign Minister

Abba Eban. So far, the requests and protests have been ignored, Wishner said.

Rally Scheduled In New York

On Wednesday an emergency rally for Syrian Jews will be held in front of the Syrian Mission to the United Nations from noon to 1 p.m. It will be conducted as a memorial services for the four murdered Jewish women. The event is sponsored by the Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry with the cooperation of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the American Sephardi Federation, the American Jewish Committee and the Committee of Concern, which is a non-sectarian group seeking to alleviate the plight of minorities in Arab countries.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Presidents' Conference and chairman of the event, said that in addition to memorializing the four women, they are seeking: "a fair trial for the two Jewish men accused by the Syrian authorities of killing the women--an obviously trumped up charge--and, the right of the remaining 4500 Jews to leave Syria, where they live under harsh, restrictive regulations tantamount to house-arrest."

ISRAEL BONDS TO INITIATE DRIVE TO ENROLL 'SHOMREI ISRAEL'

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA)--A campaign to expand the involvement of every Jewish family in active support of Israel through the Israel Bond program will be initiated on Israel's 26th anniversary, April 25, Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, announced. The special effort, which will reach its peak in May and June, will concentrate on the enrollment of purchasers of \$1000 or more in Israel Bonds as "Shomrei Israel," or Guardians of Israel.

More than 500 synagogues in various parts of the country have scheduled special events in order to enroll the members of their congregations as Shomrei Israel. The Shomrei Israel drive is the second stage in the unprecedented 1974 campaign for the sale of \$1 billion in Reconstruction and Development Bonds of the State of Israel, Rothberg said.

He explained that Israel's urgent post-war economic needs placed upon the Jews of the United States and Canada the responsibility of supplying the funds for the entire Development Budget which provides for basic economic enterprises. Israel's Development Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 amounts to \$1.07 billion as compared with \$642 million for the previous year. The Shomrei Israel campaign, according to Rothberg, will seek to achieve a quota of 250,000 families, each purchasing a minimum of \$1000.

Menachem Beigin, a member of Israel's Knesset and a leader of the Likud, will be the principal speaker at a reception celebrating Israel's 26th anniversary on April 27 at the Waldorf-Astoria. The reception is sponsored by the Greater New York Committee, State of Israel Bonds, of which Samuel Neaman is chairman.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Figures published Monday by the Jewish Agency showed a sharp drop in immigration from Western countries in March. The figures were as follows: from Latin America, 81 olim in March compared to 563 in Feb.; from the U.S. and Canada, 65 compared to 130; from Western Europe, 103 in March, 182 in Feb.; from South Africa, 19 compared to 51.

COPENHAGEN (JTA)--Norway is enlarging its special preparedness police forces to help combat hijacking and terrorist attacks.