



# daily news bulletin

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## IT'S OFFICIAL: DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD SIGNED

Announcement Made Simultaneously In Jerusalem, Washington And Damascus; Terms Of Accord To Be Presented To Knesset Thursday Morning -- By Gil Sedan and David Landau

**JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA)**--An Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement was announced tonight simultaneously in Jerusalem, Damascus and Washington. Israeli Information Minister Shimon Peres announced a few minutes after 9 p.m. local time that the Israeli government confirmed that a disengagement accord has been achieved with Syria. Premier Golda Meir's caretaker Cabinet went into session at 6 p.m. after twice postponing a meeting originally scheduled for 3 p.m. to consider last minute clarifications received from the Syrian capital.

(President Nixon announced the accord in a brief appearance in the White House press room shortly after 1 p.m. Washington time. He said the pact paved the way for a permanent peace settlement in the Middle East. See separate story.) (President Hafez Assad of Syria announced the agreement in Damascus as a "first step" toward the withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories.)

Tonight's announcement here was limited to a statement that a disengagement accord had been reached. Details of the agreement will be presented to the Knesset tomorrow morning by Premier Meir. The government reportedly asked Knesset Speaker Israel Yeshayahu to convene parliament at 9 a.m. local time tomorrow to hear a statement on disengagement. (Foreign news sources said the terms of the agreement would be announced Friday when the accord is to be signed formally in Geneva.)

Israelis were glued to their radio and TV sets throughout the evening awaiting the expected announcement that disengagement had finally been achieved. The greatest suspense was among Israeli troops on the Golan Heights where fighting continued today without regard to the momentous political developments taking shape. A military spokesman announced in Tel Aviv that Israeli Air Force jets attacked terrorist installations in southern Lebanon for a half hour beginning at 4:10 p.m. local time today and returned safely to their bases.

U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the man credited by all concerned with single-handedly achieving the "impossible" agreement after 32 days of arduous personal diplomacy in the Middle East, returned from his final visit to Damascus late last night. He met with senior Israeli leaders at 2 a.m. After a few hours sleep, they held another meeting after which the full Cabinet convened for a progress report. An official communique issued before noon said that "a few details still remained to be clarified." During his final hours in Damascus, Kissinger met with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko who was also visiting the Syrian capital. The clarifications requested by Israel were apparently being obtained by Kissinger's top Middle East aide, Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, who remained behind in Damascus for further discussions with Syrian leaders today.

The development that apparently persuaded Israel to forego its original demand for a Syrian

commitment to curb terrorist activities from its territory was reportedly a promise by Kissinger that the U.S. would give Israel a written guarantee that in the event that terrorists, either singly or in groups, infiltrate Israeli territory from Syria, Israeli forces will be allowed to fight them and cross into Syria in their pursuit.

### U.S. Will Assist Israel Politically

The U.S. would not regard such action by Israel as a violation of the disengagement accord and will assist Israel politically under the guarantee. Kissinger was quoted as saying that Assad refused to guarantee Israel against terrorist incursions because "If I decide to renew the war I will not do it through terrorists."

The issue was the subject of long debate in the Cabinet where some ministers demanded that Israel make the anti-terrorist clause an ultimatum. Only three ministers--Moshe Kol of the Independent Liberal Party and Yosef Burg and Yitzhak Rafael of the National Religious Party--supported that line. Police Minister Shlomo Hillel abstained. The rest of the Cabinet accepted the U.S. guarantee.

### Accord Terms Indicated

Although nothing official has been announced by either side, the disengagement accord reportedly includes the following: a disengagement line extending roughly from Mt. Hermon through the Golan Heights town of Kuneitra to the southeastern Golan around Rafid; a buffer zone between 1.5-3.5 miles wide on either side of the disengagement line separating the Israelis and Syrians; a UN force to be known officially as a "United Nations Disengagement Force" will police the buffer zone with 1250 troops; limited forces zones 5.5 miles wide will be established on both sides of the buffer zone.

Each side will be permitted no more than 6000 troops, 75 tanks and 35 short range artillery pieces in its zone. Beyond the first limited forces zones, second zones of 5.5 miles width will be established in which each side will be permitted 450 tanks but no long range artillery or anti-aircraft missiles. Israel radio reported this afternoon that two Red Cross aircraft and medical teams were standing by in Geneva to commence a prisoner-of-war exchange as soon as the disengagement accord is signed.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union were expected to be co-signers in their capacities as co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference. According to an unconfirmed report, the Israeli delegation to Geneva will be headed by Brig. Gen. Herzl Shafir, chief of Army Headquarters, and will include Meir Rosen, legal advisor to the Foreign Ministry; and senior army officers.

### NIXON: ACCORD PAVES WAY FOR PERMANENT PEACE SETTLEMENT IN ENTIRE MIDEAST

**WASHINGTON, May 29 (JTA)**--President Nixon announced this afternoon that a disengagement agreement has been reached between Israel and Syria to be signed in Geneva Friday. He said the announcement was being made simultaneously in Jerusalem and Damascus. He said the agreement

"paves the way for a permanent peace settlement in the entire Middle East area." Nixon made the announcement in a brief appearance in the White House press room shortly after 1 p.m. It was carried on national television and radio.

The President spoke extemporaneously and did not have a prepared statement. He said that as a result of the accord, "the prospects of reaching an agreement on a permanent basis are now better than they have ever been over the past 25 years" in the Middle East. Nixon said he had sent messages of congratulations to Premier Golda Meir and President Hafez Assad complimenting them for their statesmanship demonstrated by the agreement which was "totally without the prospect of a resolution a month ago."

Nixon had warm praise for Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger whose 32 days of arduous personal diplomacy in the Middle East finally succeeded. He said that Kissinger "deserves enormous credit for the work that he has done, along with members of his team, in keeping the negotiations going and finally reaching agreement when at many times it seemed that the negotiations would break down." Nixon pledged that the U.S. would continue its diplomatic initiatives, working with all governments in the area aimed at reaching a permanent settlement.

#### Mrs. Meir: Hope This Is Start Of Real Peace

In Jerusalem, Premier Meir, commenting on the accord, said "this is a great evening." She also expressed hope that it will be a day that will not only bring immediate quiet on the northern border, but also one in which "Israeli mothers, Syrian mothers, young wives on both sides of the border will be able to sleep undisturbed tonight." She added, "this is what we hope for our people and our neighbors." Referring to the accord, Mrs. Meir declared: "We hope that this goes well. We hope that this is the beginning of a real peace."

The Syrian announcement of the disengagement was a replay of Nixon's announcement broadcast on Damascus radio during one of its regular newscasts. About an hour earlier, regular programs were interrupted for a joint Syrian-Soviet statement on the departure of Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko from Damascus. It was a general call for an overall Middle East peace agreement in which Syria maintained that the Soviet Union should participate in all stages.

#### FULBRIGHT'S DEFEAT, ISRAEL'S GAIN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 29 (JTA)—The defeat of Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright by the state's Governor Dale Bumpers was seen here today as indirectly indicating gains for Israel in the Senate. Fulbright, head of the powerful and prestigious Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 15 of his 30 years in Congress, was outspokenly critical of many U.S. foreign policy stands including aid to Israel.

The U.S. position toward Israel was not a factor in the primary campaign, in which victory is tantamount to election in November, but Bumpers and Fulbright were in almost direct opposition in their views toward Israel. Fulbright's antipathy towards U.S. aid to Israel has been long established, though he seemed to indicate a sudden, if almost imperceptible, change of heart in the final stages of his fight for reelection. Bumpers, however, indicated backing for a strong and

secure Israel as a means of assuring against U.S. military participation in the Middle East. "after we just got out of that entanglement in Vietnam."

Bumpers took that stand in a debate with Fulbright on ABC's "Issues and Answers" on May 26, the only face-to-face meeting between the two. Bumpers said he felt it would be "much better" to send arms to Israel than it would be "to send them men." Asked by correspondent Frank Reynolds if there was any issue of sending American troops to Israel, Bumpers said "no."

However, he added that Israeli withdrawal from all occupied areas, with a United Nations guarantee, "which would really be a United States guarantee of sorts," would have left Israel defenseless and would have "required" the U.S. to go to Israel's defense with men and arms "sometimes" in the future.

Fulbright's defeat almost certainly means a new chairman for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the new Congress convening in Jan. On the likely assumption that the Democrats will continue to control the Senate, either Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama or Sen. Frank Church of Idaho will replace Fulbright as chairman, although Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield is next in line to Sparkman as Foreign Relations Committee chairman if he wants that position. Mansfield, however, may be reluctant to give up his present position.

#### Sparkman, Church Sympathetic To Israel

Sparkman, now chairman of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, was believed today ready to quit that post to head the Foreign Relations Committee, a position which is his for the asking on the basis of seniority. Sparkman has been consistently sympathetic to Israel since its rebirth in 1948. As a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations he evinced sympathy for the young Jewish State and two years later, he was one of 36 Senators to co-sponsor aid to Israel.

Church, a recent visitor to Israel, has been emphatically pro-Israel as Senator. Both Sparkman and Church voted for the Administration's emergency \$2.2 billion aid program for Israel after the Yom Kippur War and both sponsored the Jackson Amendment which links trade concessions to Russia with amelioration of its emigration policies for Soviet Jews.

In a notable turnaround two weeks ago, Fulbright became one of the 43 Senatorial sponsors of a testimonial for Sen. Henry M. Jackson here on May 14. Since the function was sponsored by the American Trade Union and Public Service Councils of Histadrut, Fulbright's support was seen as hinting a softening of his stand against Israel, organized labor and Jackson.

In Sept. 1970, when the first Jackson Amendment calling for a U.S. credit of \$500 million to Israel was being debated, Fulbright was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency about his opposition to such a credit. He replied angrily that the overwhelming support here for the amendment demonstrated "the power of Zionism" in the Congress. In May of 1973, he charged that the United States would lose its oil sources in the Middle East because of what he called U.S. "subservience" to Israel.

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NEW YORK (JTA)—A 10-day summer camp vacation for 2500 children and teenagers from Kiryat Shemona, the city which was recently the target of Palestinian terrorists, will be provided by Pioneer Women. Mrs. Charlotte Stein, national president of the Women's Labor Zionist Organization of America, announced here Wednesday.

**RABIN DESIGNATES NEW CABINET**

By David Landau and Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA)--Premier-designate Yitzhak Rabin presented his new government to President Ephraim Katzir late last night with only 90 minutes to spare before the expiration of his midnight deadline. Missing from the new Cabinet are four veteran ministers who have been associated with Israel's top leadership for most of the nation's history. They are Premier Golda Meir; Foreign Minister Abba Eban; Defense Minister Moshe Dayan; and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir.

The Rabin government, approved yesterday by the Labor Party's Executive and Knesset faction, must win a vote of confidence in the Knesset before it can take office. The vote probably will be held next Monday, and while the parliament is expected to endorse the Rabin slate, it may do so only by a very narrow margin. Every vote will count. The Rabin government, based on a narrow coalition of the Labor Alignment, the Independent Liberal Party and the Civil Rights Party, commands only 61 Knesset votes and defections are possible from within Labor Party ranks, either by abstentions or negative ballots.

The Cabinet presented to President Katzir last night consists of the following: Premier, Yitzhak Rabin; Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Yigal Allon; Defense Minister, Shimon Peres; Information Minister, Aharon Yariv; Minister of Education and Culture, Aharon Yadin (presently Labor Party Secretary General); Minister of Commerce and Industry, Haim Barlev; Minister of Transport, Gad Yaacobi; Police Minister, Shlomo Hillel; Minister of Justice, Haim Zadok; Housing Minister, Yehoshua Rabinowitz; Labor Minister, Moshe Bar-Am; Minister of Absorption, Shlomo Rosen; Minister of Health, Victor Shemtov; Minister of Agriculture, Aharon Uzan; Minister of Tourism, Moshe Kol; Communications Minister, Avraham Ofer.

Ministers-Without-Portfolio are Shulamit Aloni, CRP leader; Gideon Hausner, of the ILP; and Israel Galili of the Labor Party who is a member of the outgoing Meir government.

**Eban Expresses Bitterness**

The position of Abba Eban is not certain. The outgoing Foreign Minister has made no effort to conceal his bitterness at being dropped by Rabin and abstained in the party voting yesterday. In a bitter speech at last night's party meeting, Eban said it was wrong to pretend that Rabin had wanted him in the government but was unable to include him for technical reasons. He wondered aloud whether this would be the last time that Israel looks to the Labor Party for leadership. Rabin had included Eban in a provisional slate submitted to the party earlier in the week as Information Minister. Eban regarded that appointment as a demotion and said he would not serve in the new government.

Labor MK Mordechai Porat of the party's Rafi faction has threatened to vote against the new government and then resign his Knesset seat. Two other Labor MKs, Yitzhak Navon and David Koren, also abstained yesterday. Navon explained later that he refused to vote because one of the ministers designated by Rabin was unsuitable for the job. He did not name the minister and said he would support the government in the Knesset nevertheless.

Dayan also promised to vote for the Rabin regime, but only "under duress." Premier Meir

herself seemed to be in a dilemma. She has vowed publicly not to support a government that includes Ms. Aloni and has indicated that she would resign her Knesset seat before the vote of confidence comes up. But this is precluded by Israeli law which requires an incumbent Prime Minister to remain in office until a successor is sworn in. She is expected to vote for the Rabin government, also "under duress."

In the event of defections from within Labor ranks, the new government is expected to squeak through the Knesset with the support of the pro-Moscow Rakah Communists (four votes) and the far-left Moked faction (one vote). The National Religious Party and the Aguda bloc have not yet decided whether to vote against the Rabin regime or abstain--they will not vote for it. The Likud opposition is trying to persuade the religious parties to join it in a solid opposition phalanx of 54 seats. Likud leader Menachem Begin has already denounced the new government as a national disgrace and the weakest in Israel's history.

**Government Of Continuity And Change**

Rabin himself declared last night that his government would be one of continuity and change. He said it would continue the work and achievements of the outgoing Meir government and at the same time try to affect needed changes in both domestic and foreign policies. "We stand before great challenges and from the experience of the Jewish people, we know that great challenges produce new and strong forces of leadership," Rabin said.

The new government will not be complete when it takes office. When Sapir adamantly refused to continue in government service, Rabin was forced to select a last minute replacement for the key post in the person of Yaacov Levinson, an executive of the Histadrut-owned Bank Hapoalim (Workers Bank). But Levinson cannot assume the office for three months because of previous obligations. Rabin announced last night that Justice Minister-designate Haim Zadok will serve as acting Finance Minister for that period.

Similarly, the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Religious Affairs, traditionally held by the NRP, will be headed by an acting minister for the time being. Rabin has named Hillel for that task. He has not decided yet who will head the Welfare Ministry, also previously held by the NRP. The three ministries are being kept vacant on the chance that the NRP will eventually join the new coalition--but they will not be kept open indefinitely.

**FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT ISRAEL, EGYPT**

COPENHAGEN, May 29 (JTA)--Danish Foreign Minister Ove Guldberg will make official visits to Egypt and Israel before the year's end, Danish sources report. The government has officially accepted Egypt's invitation and Guldberg's visit there has been confirmed for July 17. He is expected to remain in Egypt for three days where he will confer with his Egyptian counterpart on the Middle East.

Later in the year, probably sometime in the fall, Guldberg will visit Israel. It will be the first time in five years that a Danish Foreign Minister will have paid an official visit to the Jewish State. In 1969, former Foreign Minister Poul Hartling, now Prime Minister, visited Israel.

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NEW YORK (JTA)--Alexander Feldman, the Kiev Jewish activist, has been transferred from solitary confinement to a jail within the labor camp for six months, the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry reported. Feldman has gone on a hunger strike as a result of this new punishment, the GNYCSJ said.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****HUNTING COMMUNIST TERRORISTS**

By Ehud Yaari

**JERUSALEM, May 29 (JTA)**—During the past few weeks Israel's security services have carried out a series of arrests among members of the Jordanian Communist Party on the West Bank. The number of arrests has not been disclosed, but Communist sources here claim that more than 50 party activists were rounded up. While Israeli officials have declined any comment on the arrests, pending the completion of the investigations, there is enough evidence to support the argument that the aim now is to break the Communist network in the West Bank, or at least to thoroughly deter its members from further hostile activity.

For more than six years the Israeli authorities chose to ignore West Bank Communist activity, which was in the main limited to the distribution of the unlicensed organ "El-Watan" ("Homeland") and various other pamphlets and petitions. In recent months, however, the West Bank Communists had switched for the first time to sabotage operations, particularly arson, and to fierce propaganda in favor of "armed resistance." This was done under the banner of the "Palestinian National Front" — a typical underground Communist Front organization, which embraces several other small political circles, such as George Habash's Arab Nationalist Movement.

The switch of the Communist cells from mere "talk" to "action," saw the end of Israel's tolerance towards the party. Among those arrested were several well-known intellectuals, particularly from East Jerusalem, and other leading party members. The Communist press in Israel steadily denies the charges, levelled against the detainees. Rakah's mouthpiece "El-Ittihad" claims that the Israeli government "is running a campaign against supporters of political settlement."

But the new militant tone of the West Bank Communists on the pages of their own new paper "Pilastin" seems to refute these denials. Apparently the Communists took a decision to risk Israeli counter-measures by moving to "action," in order to strengthen their position among the Palestinian armed organizations. The fact that the Communist Party has the only organized dissident network on the West Bank makes its potential contribution to the PLO valuable indeed.

And so they gambled, sacrificing much of their power in the West Bank to Israeli retaliation, so as to prove they are fit to be allies of the other Palestinian terrorist organizations. But the price of this gamble might prove higher than expected, while its fruits may never fall into their hands.

**AJ COMMITTEE, AJ CONGRESS OFFICIALS****SAY TALKS HELD TO COORDINATE****ACTIVITIES BUT MERGER NOT IN OFFING**

**NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA)**—Top officials of the American Jewish Committee and the American Jewish Congress said today that meetings have been held for many months on means of coordinating their community relations activities for greater effectiveness and to reduce duplication in such efforts, but that a merger was not in the offing.

Bertram Gold, executive vice-president of the AJ Committee, and Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJ Congress, agreed, in statements to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that preliminary talks have been underway for such objectives for some time and that the talks have included the

Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Gold said that "our discussions with the American Jewish Congress are exploring the whole range" of such cooperation. He said he would not rule out possibility of a merger of the Committee and the Congress but that, at the present time, the talks were informal and "very preliminary."

Mrs. Levine also stressed that officials in the three community relations agencies have long recognized that "better coordination" is needed. She said that talks between officials of the agencies had been going on for many years. She said that the issue discussed was "how can we do it better?"

**Absorption Report Is A Distortion**

She denounced a press report that an "absorption" of the Congress by the Committee had ever been considered, calling this "a total distortion of truth." She said "the truth is that the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee have been talking to each other and to other national Jewish agencies to discuss the best way of cooperating so that the Jewish community can be assured that its concerns are dealt with in the most expert and efficient fashion." She added that "no absorption of either agency has ever been contemplated," calling the word "absorption" an "insult" to the AJ Congress.

Mrs. Levine also denounced reports that the reason for the alleged plans for "absorption" was that the AJ Congress was suffering financial problems. She said the Congress reports to the Large City Budgeting Conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds "have shown consistently that our financial condition is sound and that our membership and fund-raising have increased over the past several years." She added that "in today's inflationary economy, our problems are no more difficult than those of other Jewish institutions or agencies."

Mrs. Levine cited, as an example of the kind of cooperation sought in the ongoing talks, a visit to the Health, Education and Welfare Department in Washington on May 23 to discuss the problems of "affirmative action" in HEW guidelines for student admission. She said the three community relations agencies, plus Agudath Israel of America, were represented at the meeting, adding "we would very much like to see much more cooperation of this kind."

**JEWISH WOMAN IN FRENCH GOVERNMENT**

**PARIS, May 29 (JTA)**—The only woman in the new French government named here is also the only Jew. She is Simone Veil, and yesterday she became France's Health Minister. Born on July 13, 1927 in the southern French town of Nice, Mrs. Veil studied law and later made a career in the Justice Ministry. Her father, Andre Jacob, was an architect. Her mother is Yvonne Steinmetz. When she was 16, she and her family were deported by the Nazis during the occupation. Mrs. Veil's husband, Antoine Veil, works in the Finance Ministry here.

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**LONDON (JTA)**—Sir Samuel Fisher, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews since Sept. 1973, has been elevated to the Peerage. He becomes a Life Peer with the title Baron (which is one of the five titles a member of the House of Lords can have). This means that the title is not inherited. In Sir Samuel's case it does not matter because he and his wife, Millie, the new Lady Fisher, have only one daughter. Sir Samuel, 69, has been one of the most influential and effective Labor leaders at the municipal level.