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12 ISRAELI POWs RETURN; REST EXPECTED BY FRIDAY

By Tuvia Mendelson

TEL AVIV, June 2 (JTA) -- Twelve wounded Israeli prisoners of war, the first to be released by Syria, celebrated their freedom with their families, relatives and friends last night after landing at Ben Gurion Airport and physical examinations at Tel Hashomer Hospital. They returned to the hospital today for further check-ups and treatment and at least six will have to undergo surgery, according to a medical report released today.

Dr. Mordechai Shani, director general of Tel Hashomer, said that the initial examinations indicated that the POWs had been treated well in the Syrian prison. He said that only one of the returnees was in "bad" condition but his life is not in danger. Doctors estimated that most of the other released men would be able to leave the hospital in two weeks. Premier Golda Meir and Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur visited the men today.

The released men are: Yaacov Shalom Artel; Itamar Barnea; Amiram Gay; Gavriel Garzon; Noach Michael Hertz; Yaacov Yaacov; Shalom Lavi; Avikam Lief; Ze'ev Neshet; Avraham Asa-El; Benyamin Kiryati; and Amichai Rokach.

Ben Gurion Airport was packed with relatives of the returnees early yesterday morning, hours before the Red Cross plane operating for the United Nations was due to arrive from Damascus. Many other families preferred to wait at Tel Hashomer hospital where they knew the wounded men would be taken.

High Israeli officials were also at the airport, among them Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and his wife, Foreign Minister and Mrs. Abba Eban and top ranking army officers who boarded the UN plane as soon as it landed. As the returning soldiers left the plane each was presented with flowers and a pamphlet summarizing news of Israel and the world during their almost nine months in captivity and informing them of the process they will be undergoing.

Most Able To Walk

Most of the returnees were able to walk. Some of them hobbled on crutches to the barriers when they spotted members of their families and joyous, tearful reunions took place on the open landing strip. Among the POWs was one whose wife gave birth to a daughter while he was imprisoned in Syria and another who had left a two-week old son when war broke out last Oct. The son was named Dror -- Freedom.

Shalom Libbi, one of the returning soldiers who had been scheduled for discharge last Oct. 6, the day of the Syrian-Egyptian attack, told reporters that he and the other POWs had been permitted to walk in the prison yard for a half hour every day. He said he had kept a diary of prison life but had to leave it behind when he was released.

The remaining 50-odd Israeli POWs in Syria are expected to be released and returned to Israel next Friday. Their comrades who landed yesterday reported that they were well and bursting with excitement at the prospect of returning home. Israel released 25 Syrians and one Mo-

roccan who fought with the Syrians. They were flown to Damascus by the Red Cross.

2 POWs In Lebanon To Be Freed

Two Israeli pilots, who bailed out and were taken prisoner in Lebanon last month after their plane was shot down over Syria are expected to be released by the end of this week in exchange for 13 Lebanese civilians captured by Israel in a commando raid on terrorist strongholds in southern Lebanon in April.

As the first Israeli POWs returned, the northern front was quiet for the first time in nearly three months. But fighting had continued up to the moment the Israeli-Syrian disengagement accord was signed in Geneva at noon local time Friday. One Israeli soldier was killed by Syrian artillery fire Friday morning, only hours before the ceasefire went into effect. When news of the signing reached Israeli troops at the front, they burst into songs and dancing and raised toasts in hopes that the truce would last.

But violence persisted even after the signing ceremonies in Geneva. Two terrorists were killed last night near Kibbutz Adamit in Western Galilee. The two were trying to infiltrate Israeli territory when they were spotted by an Israeli patrol. A brief skirmish ensued after which two bodies were found with a supply of food and arms indicating that the terrorists had planned to remain in Israeli territory for several days. There was no indication what their mission might have been.

MEIR CABINET'S FINAL SESSION

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- The Golda Meir Cabinet held its last session here today after more than five years of her leadership. For over 90 minutes minister after minister spoke in praise of her steadfastness, her political acumen and her qualities of leadership. Cabinet Secretary Gershon Avner said the ministers' words of praise would be officially published tomorrow. Mrs. Meir reviewed the government's work over the past five years dwelling especially on the difficult times of this last year.

The Cabinet, in its last act in office, decided to set up an advisory body on social problems which would function alongside a ministerial committee on social problems to be chaired by Police Minister Shlomo Hillel in the new Cabinet. Mrs. Meir proposed setting up the council in principle, noting that although the outgoing Cabinet had no power to enforce the decision she was certain that this... important and non-controversial issue would be taken up by the new Cabinet.

It has been widely reported that among Yitzhak Rabin's first acts as Premier will be the appointment of the ministerial committee on social problems with Hillel as head. The committee will name the members of the advisory council and delineate its functions.

ISRAEL, SYRIA BEGIN TALKS ON DISENGAGEMENT TIMETABLE

By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, June 2 (JTA) -- Israeli and Syrian military work groups met for 90 minutes this morning, adjourned for five hours apparently to consult with their governments, and held another meeting in the afternoon as efforts to work out a

disengagement timetable and other details entered their second day. Sources reported later that "considerable progress" had been made on implementation and "other collateral matters." Under the accord the two sides have five days to work out the technical details and 20 days to complete disengagement.

The reference is believed to have been to the exchange of prisoners of war which commenced yesterday with the return of wounded soldiers on both sides and the search for men missing and presumed dead on the battlefield. The two working groups held their first session here yesterday -- a meeting that lasted 90 minutes -- and released a brief communique stating only that more detailed discussions were on today's agenda. The head of the Israeli delegation, Maj. Gen. Herzl Shafir reportedly made a strong plea at yesterday's session for fast action on the POW exchange and the search for the missing. Syrian circles here said they expected no problems on these issues.

Gen. Shafir and his Syrian counterpart, Maj. Gen. Adnan Wahdi Tayara, signed the disengagement accord formally here Friday. Lt. Gen. Ensis Sillasvuo, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) is presiding at the daily sessions. The military working groups are expected to conclude their implementation task by Wednesday -- within five days of the signing of the accord as stipulated by the disengagement agreement.

The atmosphere at the meetings was described as "formal" and "correct" but without cordiality between the Israeli and Syrian officers. Both teams face each other across two map tables and a blackboard in the first floor committee room at UN headquarters here. The Israeli and Syrian generals do not speak to each other directly, but address Gen. Sillasvuo, the chairman. The discussions are conducted in English.

Waldheim Sees 'Breakthrough'

As today's meetings began, UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim arrived in Geneva on his way to the Middle East. He told reporters at the airport that he would hear a report from Gen. Sillasvuo during his four hour stop-over on progress made so far. Dr. Waldheim described the Israeli-Syrian accord as "a gratifying breakthrough," but warned that an overall Middle East peace settlement was still far off. He estimated that it would at least be several weeks before the Middle East peace conference which opened here with an initial two day session last Dec. could be resumed.

The Israeli-Syrian disengagement accord, signed for their respective governments by Gen. Shafir and Gen. Tayara Friday was co-signed for the UN by Gen. Sillasvuo, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, representing the United States and Ambassador Vladimir Vinogradov of the Soviet Union were witnesses.

The ceremony was delayed briefly when the Syrian delegation refused to participate until several hundred newsmen left the press gallery. The new cease-fire became effective with the signing. Until then, artillery exchanges continued, with one Israeli soldier killed. A few minutes before the cease-fire became effective, Israeli planes bombed terrorist installations in southern Lebanon and Syria.

Gen. Sillasvuo opened the brief ceremony, declaring that while the disengagement treaty was "not a peace treaty," it was "a milestone in obtaining a just and lasting peace in the Middle East." He warned that "many setbacks and difficulties" could still take place and called on all sides to show a spirit of compromise and understanding. He

called the accord "a historic agreement" which brought the parties "to the threshold of a new era of trust, justice and peace in the Middle East."

Atmosphere 'Heavy'

The signing took place in an atmosphere described by observers as "heavy." There were no smiles and no social contacts between Americans and the Soviets or between the Americans and the Israelis. Only Vinogradov made a social gesture, shaking hands with all the Arab delegates present. There appeared to be general agreement that steps to follow toward the actual peace conference here would be more complex, arduous and frustrating.

The ceremony took place in the brown-paneled Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations in which the first meeting of the Geneva peace conference was held last December. Five tables were arranged in hexagonal form. Gen. Sillasvuo sat at the head, flanked by two deputy secretary generals of the UN Secretariat. On his right sat the three-man Syrian delegation, which had been joined by Egyptian Gen. Tamal el Maghdoub, who had been a negotiator in the Israeli-Egyptian disarmament talks last January.

Arab sources here said the Egyptian officer was present because the Syrian Army is part of a joint command with Egypt and because the session today took place within the framework of the only existing military working group, the Egyptian-Israeli one. On Gen. Sillasvuo's left sat the three Israelis: Maj. Gen. Shafir, Col. Dov Sion and Meir Rosemne, the Foreign Ministry's legal advisor. Next to them sat the American and Soviet delegations.

KISSINGER REPORTED ASSURED ON STOPPING TERRORISTS By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA) -- Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has reported to Congressional leaders that Syria has "assured" the United States that "it would not give encouragement to Palestinian terrorists." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was apprised of Kissinger's report by Rep. Robert Wilson (R. Cal.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee who attended a 90-minute briefing by Kissinger with President Nixon at the White House Friday on the Secretary's mission to the Middle East.

Rep. Wilson said the Congressmen were told by Kissinger that Israel and Syria had given "assurances" to the U.S. to provide "protection against terrorists." Asked about a letter of assurance to Israel on that issue, Wilson said the letter "evidently" involved one of the last snags that had to be unravelled before a disengagement agreement was reached and that it was only by U.S. assurance to Israel that "our full diplomatic force would be used to assure some protection" that the agreement could be reached.

Nixon and Kissinger conferred at the White House yesterday with United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim before the latter's departure on a visit to the Middle East. Kissinger told reporters later that he had brought the Secretary General up to date on the latest stage of disengagement.

Kissinger, who returned from the Middle East early Friday morning, told reporters at Andrews Air Force Base that "We should remember, as the President said in his statement" announcing the disengagement accord Wednesday "that this is

just, and perhaps, the smallest step toward achievement of a just and permanent peace in the Middle East. We all take some pride in the fact that it was the United States that could play the role of mediator and that it was the United States that was trusted by both sides to interpret the views of each side to the other with fairness."

Nixon To Visit Mideast

The White House announced meanwhile that President Nixon would make an official visit to the Soviet Union, starting June 27 but was silent on reports that the President would visit the Middle East within the next ten days -- a trip informed sources here seem almost certain he will make.

LIMITED FORCES ACCORD SIGNED; UN OBSERVER UNIT APPROVED

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- Identical documents specifying the "limited forces zones" to be established within the framework of the Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement have been signed separately by both sides. Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban signed the document on behalf of his government Friday and Syria's Chief of Staff, Gen. Yussuf Shakur, signed in Damascus today. The documents will be exchanged through U.S. diplomatic channels.

The main disengagement accord which Israel and Syria signed in Geneva Friday contained only passing reference to the limited forces zones to be established on either side of the United Nations buffer zone that separates the two armies. As in the Israeli-Egyptian disengagement accord signed last Jan. 21, the subsidiary document contains the specifics of the arms limitations.

The zones specified are 25 kilometers deep on both sides of the buffer zone. Within the first ten kilometers, each side is permitted no more than 6,000 men, 75 tanks and 36 short-range artillery pieces. The first 20 kilometers must be clear of heavy artillery and the entire 25 kilometers clear of ground-to-air and ground-to-ground missiles.

1250-Man UN Force

(A joint U.S.-Soviet resolution creating the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) to supervise the Israeli-Syrian disengagement agreement was approved with a 13-0 vote in the Security Council Friday. Iraq and China did not participate in the voting. The force will consist of 1250 men to police the UN buffer zone separating Israeli and Syrian forces.

(UNDOF was established for an initial period of six months, subject to renewal by the Security Council. The resolution provided that UNDOF was set up under the Council's authority, which was interpreted to mean it could not be pulled out without Council approval.

(Jacob Daron, the acting representative for Israel, voiced Israel's "warmest appreciation and thanks" to Kissinger "for his untiring efforts in bringing about the conclusion of the agreement which was signed this morning in Geneva by representatives of Israel and Syria.")

EBAN TO CHALLENGE RABIN FOR LEADERSHIP

TEL AVIV, June 2 (JTA) -- Top Mapai leaders are suggesting that outgoing Foreign Minister Abba Eban be elected as Secretary General of the Labor Party. They believe that a strong man in this position would change the image of the party

and strengthen it.

Sources said that at the moment Eban tends to refuse the position, but according to some sources if the post would officially be offered to him, he might change his mind.

Meanwhile, it is yet not clear how Eban is going to vote in the Knesset when Rabin presents his government. In interviews over the weekend Eban was interpreted to have said that he would abstain or vote against Rabin's government. He hinted he might challenge Rabin for Labor Party leadership. Eban in the interviews said Rabin did not have the qualities needed for a Premier and that he (Eban) would now work actively within labor "to prepare for the people a better tiding of leadership." Eban said he felt at the beginning of a stage in his political career -- by no means at the end of that career. He was conscious of the demand of a very large segment of the people upon him for leadership.

Rabin, he said, lacked parliamentary experience, ministerial experience and vital qualities of character -- all of which were required in a prime minister. For these reasons -- and not because of any personal antipathy -- Eban had voted for Shimon Peres against Rabin. Eban admitted to have made a great mistake in not putting forward his own candidacy -- a mistake caused by an incorrect assessment of Pinhas Sapir's real determination not to seek the premiership.

TED LURIE DEAD AT 64

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here this week for Ted Lurie, editor of the Jerusalem Post, who died in Tokyo of a brain hemorrhage last night at the age of 64. He had suffered a stroke May 24 while in Tokyo attending the International Press Association Conference and remained in a coma until his death at the St. Lucas International Hospital there.

Mr. Lurie, a pioneer of the Israeli press, was born in New York and graduated from Cornell University in 1930. He settled in Palestine that same year and joined the staff of the English language daily Palestine Post when it was founded in 1932. During World War II he served as the paper's military correspondent with Allied forces in the Western Desert and served in various editorial capacities after 1948 when it was renamed Jerusalem Post. In 1955 he was named acting editor, replacing the paper's founder and editor Gershon Agron who was elected Mayor of Jerusalem. He became editor-in-chief on Mr. Agron's death in 1959.

Mr. Lurie also served as Associated Press Jerusalem correspondent and as Israel news correspondent for the Central News Agency, the News Chronicle of London and the Columbia Broadcasting System. In recent years he broadcast Israeli news four times a week on radio station WEVD in New York. He was also a former editor of the Hebrew daily Zmanim, a co-founder of the Israel Journalists Association and ITIM (Israel News Agency), a member of the Israel Committee of the International Press Institute, a former president of the YMHA Association and chairman of the Jerusalem branch of the Israel-Japan Society.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry has learned that 26 year old Aleksandr Feldman of Kiev was severely beaten in Soviet labor camp. He is serving 3 1/2 years for "malicious hooliganism."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES HOW KISSINGER ACHIEVED ACCORD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA) -- "I don't know how you do it -- but you've done it..." Premier Golda Meir told Secretary of State Henry Kissinger last Wednesday night as the world looked on through the television cameras. How the U.S. Secretary had brought about the Israeli-Syrian disengagement after 32 days of unprecedented intense personal shuttle diplomacy, and what the disengagement accord signifies for the future of the Mideast -- these are the two issues which the pundits in the region and throughout the world are now furiously analyzing.

At least part of the explanation of how Kissinger pulled off the well nigh impossible is to be found in repeated references made during the month of talks by Israel's Information Minister Shimon Peres to "the broad context of U.S.-Israel relations." Peres stressed that the Israeli cabinet, in its many long and turbulent sessions when the points of the accord were hammered out, always sought to see the negotiations in this broader context. Apparently this broad outlook upon the talks was encouraged by the Secretary himself.

The very real and very vital bearing of the future of U.S.-Israel relations upon the immediate issues of disengagement with Syria applies on two levels.

First on the immediate level of the negotiations themselves, the final obstacle -- that of Israel's fears of terrorist incursions destroying an accord with Syrian collusion -- was overcome in the end by American assurances and undertakings. The texts of some of these have not been made public -- but Israel insisted on the right -- which Mrs. Meir exercised in the Knesset -- to declare publicly the undertaking it had received from the U.S. to view terrorist infiltrations as a violation of the accord and to back Israel's retaliatory or precautionary measures against them.

Nixon Administration Prestige On Line

On the more general, long-term level, Kissinger had invested an enormous amount of prestige into his shuttling effort -- an investment which grew as the shuttle extended in time. President Nixon looked to these talks to provide a much needed success for his administration.

The Israeli negotiators were acutely aware of this vested American interest in an accord -- over and above the ongoing American interest in improving the U.S. position in the Mideast, at the Soviet's expense, if possible. There was no pressure, not even a hint of pressure, from the Secretary. But the situation was clear to all sides.

Furthermore, still on the long-term level, the Israeli side was aware that a successful conclusion of the 32-day marathon of talks would mean a strengthening of its ties with its only real ally -- the U.S. In concrete terms this would mean a steady and ensured flow of arms supplies and economic aid.

Mrs. Meir in her Knesset address admitted frankly that the consideration of U.S. views and interest had influenced the Israeli negotiators. "In our decision... there is also a response to the aims and needs of nations friendly to Israel and which are particularly interested in stability and pacification in our region," she said. "I will not deny that our decisions... took account of the advice and the policy of the U.S...." Against this backdrop Israel's concessions must be seen and understood. By the end of the 32 days Israel had moved far from its original positions.

Kissinger Separated Issues

A lesser factor, though also important, in Kissinger's ultimate success was his insistence from the outset -- maintained against Israel's objections -- on removing the issue of the line of separation from all the other issues of the accord. He calculated, rightly as it turned out, that if he could get the parties to agree on the line they would not be able later to thwart the accord on any of the subsidiary questions, and would ultimately have to make the necessary concessions to reach a settlement.

For that reason he was willing to spend the first two weeks bickering -- in the words of a high Israeli source -- over the three hills around Kuneitra (from which Israel would not budge), and over several insignificant villages along the buffer line, many of which Israel eventually conceded. It was clear from the outset that Israel would be prepared to vacate the town of Kuneitra itself -- under satisfactory security arrangements.

The future? Apart from the obvious short-term prospect of quiet on the northern front, the accord opens the way to further negotiations at Geneva -- especially between Israel and Egypt. Egyptian President Sadat had felt after January that he could go no further so long as he was alone at having signed an agreement with the Israelis. Now the conference is expected to get under way again -- assuming the smooth completion of the Golan disengagement by then.

'SOLIDARITY SUNDAY' MARKED IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA) -- Sixty communities across the United States have marked "National Solidarity Sunday" today as a day when Americans of all religious and ethnic backgrounds "reaffirmed their solidarity with the Jews of the Soviet Union." The National Conference on Soviet Jewry is sponsoring the event.

Mrs. June Rogul, the National Conference's Washington representative, said that the monthly average of Jewish emigration from Russia to Israel so far this year has dropped more than one-third as compared with the same period last year. The decrease in emigration has been coupled with an increase in harassment and the trial of some Jews who have asked to emigrate, she said.

Large urban communities around the country participated in the demonstration of solidarity through a variety of activities. Programs took place in Cleveland, Washington, Baltimore and New York. Governor Brendan Byrne of New Jersey declared June 2 as solidarity day for his state. In the House of Representatives, 126 congressmen of both parties signed a statement that was read at the various community events.

Cleveland Mayor Ralph Perk will write to the mayor of Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania, Cleveland's sister city in the USSR, asking him to intercede on behalf of 13 Jews there who wish to rejoin their families in Israel.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- Outgoing Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is making a special trip to participate in national events in Los Angeles, Toronto and New York on behalf of the Israel Bond Campaign. His visit will coincide with intensive campaign activity to promote new sales of Israel Bonds and to speed up the collection of cash on outstanding commitments, according to Sam Rothberg, General Chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. He will be in Los Angeles June 9, Toronto June 11, and New York June 13.