



daily news bulletin

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ISRAEL THANKS NIXON FOR DECISION TO AWARD \$1.1 BILLION AID IN GRANT FORM

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- Israel expressed its formal thanks today to President Nixon and the U.S. government for the grant of another \$500 million out of the \$2.2 billion approved by Congress as military aid for Israel during the Oct. war. Nixon's decision to award the \$500 million as a grant was taken over the weekend in Yalta and announced by the White House yesterday.

The decision meant that the full \$1.5 billion which Congress had enabled the Administration to award to Israel as grants has in fact been awarded as grants, leaving only the \$700 million as loans to be repaid. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon issued a statement expressing "The Government's appreciation of the U.S. President's decision." "This is another part of U.S. aid to Israel in the field of military supply and financing which is so vital for Israel's security in the face of ongoing Arab military aggrandizement and for increasing the prospect of peace in the area," Allon's statement said.

Cabinet Secretary Gershon Avner told newsmen that almost all the Cabinet's weekly session today was devoted to defense matters including a report by Defense Minister Shimon Peres on his arms-buying mission to the U.S. The Cabinet sat as a ministerial security committee and therefore no details of its deliberations were released.

PERES DISCLOSES ISRAEL TO BUY ADVANCED U.S. PLANES -- ANSWER TO RUSSIAN MIG-23

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Shimon Peres said on his return from the U.S. last night that he had found an attitude of sympathy and understanding toward Israel's military and economic needs at his meetings with Administration and Congressional leaders in Washington. He insisted that the U.S. attached no conditions to future Israeli arms purchases and demanded no further Israeli concessions or territorial withdrawals in return for military assistance.

Peres said he did not believe the U.S. would sell arms to the Arab states. He observed that U.S. arms sales to Egypt would only open up competition with the Soviet Union with the result of increased tension in the region. The Defense Minister disclosed that Israel would purchase American F-14, 15, 16 and 17 combat aircraft which he described as the best answer to the new Soviet MIG-23 that the Russians have begun supplying to Syria.

EXPLOSIVE CHARGE FOUND

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- A small explosive charge was found early today in the Atarot industrial zone north of Jerusalem. It was dismantled safely by Army sappers, a police spokesman announced.

VATICAN SPOKESMAN CLAIMS EXPANSIONIST DESIGNS BEHIND ISRAELI BOMBINGS OF TERRORISTS IN LEBANON

ROME, June 30 (JTA) -- Vatican spokesman Prof. Frederico Alessandrini, has vigorously con-

demned Israeli air raids against terrorists in Lebanon. He called them "true acts of terror," in an article published over the weekend and implied that the raids were tied to Israeli expansionist interests in southern Lebanon.

In the article in the Vatican periodical "L'Ossevatore Della Domenica," Alessandrini flatly rejected as "morally inadmissible" Israeli claims that the raids were carried out to prevent Palestinian terrorist attacks. He implied the raids were rooted in Israeli interests in acquiring the waters of the Litani and Hasbani Rivers in southern Lebanon. The Israelis "have never made a secret of their interest in the hydraulic resources present in southern Lebanon," wrote Alessandrini. The Vatican spokesman implied that in order to acquire this "economically interesting" territory, Israel is deliberately working toward an all-out war with Lebanon. He described the raids as preparatory operations leading up to more "decisive" Israeli actions against Lebanon.

BILATERAL TALKS, RECIPROCITY, KEYS TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE, RABIN SAYS

LONDON, June 30 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel indicated here that his country is prepared to make territorial compromises for the sake of peace in the Middle East, but warned that compromise must be reciprocal and observed that negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors will not have any meaning unless and until they are conducted on a bilateral basis. "A piece of peace for a piece of territory would be a handy formula," he told a bi-partisan group of British Members of Parliament at a meeting in his hotel suite yesterday. Peace will not come, he said, until the Arabs are reconciled to Israel's existence.

Premier Rabin arrived here to attend a meeting of international Socialist party leaders opening today at Chequers, the Prime Minister's country residence. The meeting is being attended by ten prime ministers and one president. The Israeli Premier, who landed at Heathrow Airport where heavy security measures were in force, met last night with Prime Minister Harold Wilson at No. 10 Downing St. The meeting was viewed as a "considerable gesture" toward Rabin by observers here. An announcement issued later said only that the two leaders had discussed a wide variety of subjects.

Rabin told the MPs that while a final peace settlement is still far off, Israel is ready to negotiate the next step "so that we may come a little closer to peace." Rabin said Israel will be watching to see whether Egypt opens the Suez Canal to Israeli ships and whether Syria and Egypt begin working on "reconstruction" rather than preparing for another war. Rabin said the next step would be between Israel and Egypt since Egypt is the key to peace in the Middle East, but any Israeli concessions must be reciprocated.

The Premier said the reason for the increase in terrorist activities since the disengagement agreements have been signed is that "someone is interested to put pressure on us. I would not exclude the Soviet Union." But he stressed that

the terrorists cannot endanger Israel. Noting that the Palestinian problem must be solved, Rabin stressed that it cannot be at the expense of Israel. He said the Palestinians must decide who speaks for them, what are their relations with other Arab countries and what they want to do with the refugees. "If they insist on a solution at our expense, we shall not be able to oblige," Rabin declared. "Suicide is not an international obligation."

Rabin stressed that Jerusalem will continue to be Israel's capital even although an arrangement for holy places will not be excluded. He said Europe is moving toward a more evenhanded policy in the Mideast.

LABOR PARTY SEEKING RABBI GOREN'S OK OF FORMULA FOR NRP TO JOIN RABIN GOVT.

TEL AVIV, June 30 (JTA) -- If the National Religious Party decides to join Premier Yitzhak Rabin's coalition government, adding its ten Knesset votes to Rabin's present paper-thin majority of one, the decision in all probability will be made in New York, not Israel. New York is where Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren is currently visiting on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization. Last week, the Labor Party's own spiritual mentor, Rabbi Menachem Hacohen, left quietly for the U.S. to meet with Rabbi Goren apparently in the hope of selling him on a formula that would permit the NRP to join the Rabin government.

It is no secret that Labor wants the NRP in. Its experience in the Knesset since the Rabin government took office has been precarious in the extreme. The casual absence of only a few Labor MKs could very easily cause the government to be toppled by Likud and the NRP working in concert as an opposition bloc. That could have happened last week in the close vote on the national budget.

Secret talks have been held in recent weeks by a Labor Party committee headed by Justice Minister Haim Zadok and NRP chiefs Dr. Joseph Burg and Yitzhak Rafael. The three cabinet portfolios traditionally held by the NRP -- Welfare, Interior and Religious Affairs -- are being kept open in the event agreement is reached.

The issue is the Who is a Jew question. The NRP insists on a government commitment to amend the Law of Return so that only conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis are recognized as valid in Israel. The NRP's agreement to enter the last Golda Meir cabinet earlier in the year without such a commitment brought it the wrath of the Chief Rabbinate. Now the religious party keeps the Chief Rabbinate -- meaning Rabbi Goren -- informed of every move and will not enter the Rabin government without its approval.

Goren May Consult U.S. Rabbis

The problem is to find a formula acceptable to both the Orthodox establishment and Rabin's vigorously secular coalition partners -- the Independent Liberal Party and the Civil Rights Party. Shulamit Aloni, the CRP leader and a Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Rabin Cabinet, has already made it clear that her faction would leave the government if the NRP joins.

Labor is pinning its hopes on the acceptability of a rather vague "temporary" formula which Rabbi Hacohen is reportedly to discuss with Rabbi Goren. It states that a person is a Jew who has been converted in accordance with the practices of Judaism accepted in Israel over the generations. This skirts the Orthodox demand that the Law of Return be amended to specify conversions by halacha -- religious law -- which in the Orthodox view rules out conversions by non-Orthodox

rabbis. The Labor Party proposed further that while this formula is in effect, a special committee would search for a permanent solution to the problem. Labor wants to give the committee one year for the task. The NRP has insisted on a six month deadline.

The question is whether Rabbi Goren will go along with the formula. He in turn is expected to seek the advice of two prominent Orthodox rabbis in the U.S. -- the Lubavitcher Rebbe and Rabbi Joseph Solovitchik, of Boston. (By Yitzhak Shargli)

CONSERVATIVE LEADERS RE-ITERATE OPPOSITION TO CHANGES IN LAW OF RETURN

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- Leaders of Conservative Judaism in the United States have expressed to Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin their firm opposition to any changes in Israel's Law of Return as demanded by Orthodox groups in Israel and the U.S. Their position was contained in a cable sent to Premier Rabin Thursday. It was signed by Rabbi Mordecai Waxman, president of the Rabbinical Assembly; Arthur Levine, president of the United Synagogue of America; and Selma Rapaport, president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism.

The cable explained that the reiteration of their position by the Conservative leaders was "precipitated by a renewal of agitation in Orthodox circles in America and Israel" for changes in the Law of Return. The message praised Premier Rabin and his Cabinet for its refusal to succumb "to the blackmail of the Orthodox group in Israel." It expressed dismay over the fact that Israel's Orthodox leadership has taken a stand that "threatens the stability of your government by obdurate political pressures which insist on the proposed change as a condition for participation in the government coalition." The cable said, "We consider such conduct reprehensible especially at this time of national crisis when their survival and the integrity of the State of Israel faces such unprecedented challenges."

The cable re-asserted Conservative Judaism's view that "Conversion to Judaism must be performed in strict compliance with halachic requirements and that conversions to Judaism by members of the Conservative rabbinate complied in full with halachic tradition." It said that attempts by any individual group to assert that they are the exclusive custodians and interpreters of the Jewish tradition are "arrogant."

JEWISH ACTIVISTS UNDER ARREST AS NIXON TOURS USSR

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- Mass arrests of Soviet Jewish activists continued over the weekend even while President Nixon was conferring, sightseeing and socializing with Kremlin leaders on his third summit trip to the USSR. The arrests, in some cases accompanied by physical brutality, were intended to avert demonstrations that might embarrass the Soviet regime by calling attention to the deteriorating situation of Jews seeking to emigrate during the Presidential visit, according to Sheila Woods, reporting from Moscow for the American Jewish Press Association and other sources.

One such demonstration, a seminar of world renowned scientists to have opened tomorrow in the Moscow apartment of Dr. Alexander Voronel, was cancelled for all practical purposes by virtue of the fact that most of its sponsors -- including Profs. Voronel and Vitaly

Rubin -- have been placed under arrest. The seminar had been planned a year ago to dramatize the plight of Soviet Jewish scientists who have been ousted from their positions and denied work after applying for exit visas. It was only by chance that the dates of the seminar and the Presidential visit coincided.

On the brighter side was the news that Prof. Benjamin G. Levich, a noted electro-chemist and former member of the Soviet Academy of Science, has been told by the authorities that he and his wife, Tanya, will be given exit visas some time next year.

Meanwhile, Soviet Jews are trying to call their condition to the President's attention. Ten of them went on a hunger strike in Minsk last Wednesday and will continue it through tomorrow when Nixon visits that city. Four other Jewish activists are reportedly on a hunger strike in Odessa.

The arrests of Jewish activists and members of their families -- persons whose names are well known abroad -- was surprising in view of the purported Soviet sensitivity to world opinion, Woods reported. Dr. Voronel was arrested last Monday and according to Jewish sources, security police have since prevented his wife from entering their apartment. Prof. Alexander Lerner was arrested Friday after the KGB (secret police) broke down his doors. Five persons were arrested earlier, Woods reported, as they left separately from Lerner's apartment. The five are Irinka Brailovsky; Lydia Azbel, Elena Polsky; Aleksandr Dropkin; and Lucia Lunts. The women are the wives of Jewish activists presently under house arrest. Mrs. Polsky was reported to have been beaten up by the KGB men.

Vitaly Rubin, a prominent sinologist, was arrested at his home last Thursday. He had been warned before then that he would be charged with treason if he went ahead with the scientific seminar in the Voronel flat.

ZOA CONVENTION WARNS ON NUCLEAR DEAL WITH EGYPT; CONCERN OVER ALIYA DROP EXPRESSED

NEW YORK, June 30 (JTA) -- The Zionist Organization of America ending its 77th National Convention, expressed its "admiration and appreciation" of the United States government's support and aid for Israel, today but warned of "many clear indications that the Arab states in fact continue to cling to their ultimate objectives of liquidating the State of Israel by stages." A resolution adopted by the 1,000 delegates at the close of the four-day meeting at the N.Y. Hilton Hotel, said the ZOA could "place little trust" in Egyptian assurances that the nuclear technology extended by the U.S. will be used only for peaceful purposes. The resolution urged Congress to carefully review the nuclear reactor agreement and to reject it if there is any doubt of U.S. ability to provide adequate safeguards.

Concern over the decline of immigration to Israel was expressed by Jacques Torczyner, a past president of the ZOA and chairman of its administrative board. He said aliya must be given higher priority and urged more imaginative programs by American Zionists and Israelis alike. He said aliya from the U.S. has "slowed down recently not only because of the (Yom Kippur) war and the explosive situation in the Near East" but "because many of those who went to Israel returned disillusioned." Torczyner told an aliya discussion

Israeli life. They and their children did not find themselves accepted by Israelis, he said. But Torczyner predicted that the recent election of former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir to the chairmanships of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization executives would change the situation because Sapir has a reputation for "getting things done."

Calls Hussein "Natural Ally"

Leon Ilutovich, executive director of the ZOA, said that practical programs must be developed to overcome the difficulties of aliya. He cited as examples such ZOA programs as the Mollie Goodman Academic High School in Kfar Silver and the broadly-based youth programs conducted each year. William Schwartz, chairman of the ZOA's youth committee charged that "what is turning off young people from aliya is the insensitivity of the bureaucracy of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency toward the prospective immigrant. There is a lack of understanding of the cultural makeup of American young people and their ideological commitment to the State of Israel," he said. Gideon Patt, a member of the Knesset said that aliya from the U.S. should be conducted on a community wide basis since no single organization can fully implement it alone.

Speaking at another session, Torczyner said that Israel's "natural ally" was King Hussein of Jordan and an understanding with him "could solve the Palestinian problem without permitting terrorists and bandits to build an independent state between Jordan and Israel."

Other resolutions adopted by the convention demanded that Lebanon close down terrorist bases or that a United Nations force be established to do the job; called for "an impartial international investigation of the treatment accorded to Israeli prisoners of war in Syria; opposed any agreement with the USSR that would limit the number of Jews who can emigrate; urged Israel to establish a government of national unity; and urged Americans to support a strong U.S. defense posture as a way to ensure peace and to protect small countries such as Israel.

GOLDA LEAVES PM'S RESIDENCE, HER OFFICIAL HOME FOR FIVE YEARS

JERUSALEM, June 30 (JTA) -- Former Premier Golda Meir quietly left her Jerusalem official residence today -- after close to five years as Prime Minister.

She left the Premier's residence escorted by her sister, Clara Stern of Bridgeport, Conn. The two ladies went to Golda's modest Tel Aviv apartment, next door to her son Menahem's apartment. A truck carried the last of Golda's belongings from the Jerusalem apartment. Most were moved last week.

There was no special ceremony. The former P.M. met with the Premier's office staff and with the household staff last Wednesday. She spent the last hours in the Jerusalem residence packing, with her daughter, Sarah Rehavi, son-in-law, Zechariah and her sister helping her. She left behind most of the furniture and the gifts she had received as Prime Minister.

The official residence is now being painted and readied for its new occupants, Premier Yitzhak Rabin and family.

There will be no JTA Daily News Bulletin on

Behind The HeadlinesDID PENTAGON DRAG FEET ON AIRLIFT TO ISRAEL LAST OCTOBER?

"Poppycock" Says Defense Secretary Schlesinger
By Joseph Polakoff, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, June 30 (JTA) — In their New York Times Sunday magazine article "Twenty Days in October", CBS correspondents Marvin and Bernard Kalb portrayed Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger as the chief obstructionist of U.S. military support to Israel in that fateful first week of the Yom Kippur War. But if he were, was Schlesinger alone? Were others at the top of the Administration also influenced by the oil lobby, as the Kalbs indicate Schlesinger was, or at least equally resistant for other reasons, including detente, as the Kalbs also hinted?

"I've seen more poppycock on this than any other subject in that war," Schlesinger told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview in which he contradicted some major elements in the Kalb adaptation of this episode in their forthcoming book on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. "There was a cover story during that period that the source of resistance (to the massive support for Israel) was to be the Pentagon," Schlesinger revealed. "This story was basically only to protect the realities of national policy," he said.

In their diary like article, the Kalbs reported with the confidence of information on high authority that on Friday night, Oct. 12, 1973, Kissinger asked Gen. Alexander Haig of the White House to arrange a meeting with President Nixon. "Kissinger reviewed the day's developments with the President," they wrote. "It would have been extraordinary if he did not lay particular stress on the Pentagon's tactics. Nixon took immediate action, he instructed Haig to order Schlesinger to send ten C-130 transport planes, loaded with military supplies, to the Azores at once then to fly 20 C-130s directly to Israel and finally to facilitate a quick Israeli pickup of the cargo left in the Azores." "Kissinger, the Kalbs added, informed Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz of the "President's latest order, aimed at breaking through all bureaucratic roadblocks."

President Furious

On Saturday (Oct. 13) at 1:45 A.M. Kissinger called Dinitz again. According to the Kalbs, and told him the President has issued still another order to Schlesinger to make absolutely certain that ten Phantoms reach Israel by midnight Sunday. At 10:30 A.M., that Saturday morning at the White House, Nixon questioned Schlesinger about "implementing his previous orders about supplies for Israel" the Kalbs reported. Schlesinger tried to explain his difficulty in chartering civilian transport planes, the Kalbs said. "To hell with the charters," Nixon exploded, according to one eyewitness, the Kalbs reported. "Get the supplies there with American military planes... Forget the Azores! Get moving! I want no further delays." By 3:30 P.M. Dinitz was informed that a fleet of larger C-54s had just left the United States for Israel, the Kalbs said.

But Schlesinger told JTA: "Kissinger called me Friday night (Oct. 12) at about 11 P.M. I was at home. He indicated Israel was running short. To say the least he was a little bit concerned. I checked it and got approval for the airlift. It was

about time for us to fish or cut bait. The constraints on Israel were there because it was thought Israel would do okay by itself. By the end of the week that thought was beginning to fade." Schlesinger said that his "check" was with Haig at the White House. He did not ask the President directly for authorizing the airlift, Schlesinger said, because he had assumed the President had concurred.

What National Policy Was

What was "national policy"? What about the "charter" planes? Said Schlesinger to JTA between his appearances before Senate committees on defense appropriations, "Basically, national policy during the first week of the war was to provide assistance to Israel in the form of 'consumables'. In the first week, the Israelis would have to take their equipment either in their own aircraft or aircraft they could hire. Somewhat surprising to us at that time was that none of the airlines was prepared to provide charters. In addition, Israel could have consumables on a cash-and-carry basis. The policy of replacement included major equipment -- aircraft and tanks. This was the national policy throughout the first six days of the war."

The Kalbs quoted Maj. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Kissinger's deputy on the National Security Council, as having told Kissinger that the charter problem had been and remained "real enough." Kissinger, they said, phoned Schlesinger that the President would "blow his top" when he learned about the delays and that the charters were a "matter of urgent national security." The Kalbs wrote: "Schlesinger tried to refute the Secretary's charges but Kissinger interrupted him with an order to get busy implementing the President's policy."

All Facts Not Known

Schlesinger, however, told JTA: "On the night of 12 October (Friday) there were indications Israel was beginning to run out of munitions and that this might endanger Israel. Early in the morning of Oct. 13 (Saturday) -- one or two A.M., -- I ordered the start of the airlift. Gen. (Mordechai) Gur (Then Israeli Embassy Defense Attache and now chief of Israel's General Staff) was at the Pentagon at 1:30 A.M. that Saturday morning. He was told about the handling of the airlift at the Israeli end. The materials were already on the move at two or three A.M. If you backtracked the movement of aircraft you will have plenty of evidence of what had occurred. If you will call Dr. Kissinger you will get a response. I will be curious to know what his response is."

Plainly, the facts of that eventful week, particularly the last two days are not all in the public domain. Perhaps Kissinger and Schlesinger, both former New York youngsters and classmates at Harvard, will collaborate on an official version beyond contradiction. That would be a real best seller.

KISSINGER AUDIENCE WITH POPE

ROME, June 30 (JTA) -- Pope Paul VI will grant Henry A. Kissinger a private audience during the American Secretary of State's two-day visit to Italy this week, the Vatican announced today. It is believed Kissinger will broach the subject of the status of Jerusalem with the Pontiff during the audience unofficially set for July 6th.