



RABIN: ISRAEL WILL NOT BE FIRST TO BREAK DISENGAGEMENT TREATIES, BUT WILL NOT PERMIT ARABS TO ACT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Premier Yitzhak Rabin warned last night that while Israel will not be the first to breach the disengagement treaties, "neither shall we sit idly by should our enemies do so." Speaking at a rally of paratroopers at the Mann Auditorium, Rabin said that Syria was leading the Arab states into preparing for another war. "We always used to regard our main enemy as from the south, Egypt," Rabin said. "But it is not impossible that Syria, Iraq or even Jordan may amass a military strength greater than Egypt's."

Rabin noted the unprecedented increase in military strength by the Arab states, especially Syria. "Experience has taught us," he said, "that preparing for war before it starts is half the victory. We do not want war but we do not fear war." The Premier said that Israel has created a people that "will both build and fight." Rabin added that while he believed Israel had never faced graver problems, he was convinced that Israel had the strength and ability to overcome these obstacles.

Today Rabin, accompanied by Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur, visited the Golan Heights. While stressing that there was no special significance in the visit, Rabin again emphasized that Israel will maintain the cease-fire and disengagement agreements but will not sit idly if Syria violates them. He said he has learned that Syria has no intentions of rebuilding Kuneitra although one of their main arguments during the disengagement negotiations was that she wanted the return of Kuneitra to enable its former inhabitants to return home.

(Diplomatic sources in Cairo have reported that Egypt is calling up some of its reserves. However, the government is keeping quiet about the moves and a hint of such action by Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy in Paris was omitted from the three Arabic-language newspapers in Cairo although it was reported in the French and English language dailies.)

FRANCE MAY LIFT ARMS EMBARGO ON MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Aug. 8 (JTA)—The French government is considering lifting the arms embargo imposed by General Charles de Gaulle in 1967 and reaffirmed by President Georges Pompidou in Jan. 1969. French sources say that a committee of officials belonging to several ministries has been entrusted with a thorough study of the political, economic and strategic implications of such a move.

This study has been decided upon, these sources say, at yesterday's Cabinet meeting which examined the new situation created by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's open admission that Libyan Mirages are stationed in Egypt and have participated in the fighting of the Yom Kippur War in violation of the Franco-Libyan agreement.

There was no official confirmation to these

reports besides a statement made yesterday by government spokesman Andre Rossi that "the government has decided to reexamine the embargo policy."

History Of The Embargo

The embargo was first imposed in "selective" form on June 3, 1967. Historians generally believe that de Gaulle thought at the time that it would deter Israel from opening hostilities. In Jan. 1969, after the Israeli raid on Beirut Airport, President Pompidou made it "total" barring all French arms sales to any of the countries "directly involved in the fighting." According to French interpretation the embargo applied to Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Syria. Israel was the only country in the Middle East at the time to rely on French hardware.

Since its early days, the embargo has been regularly broken or otherwise turned by most countries involved. Israel has regularly charged that French arms sold to Libya and Iraq have ended up on Israel's borders. The Arabs, on the other hand, charged that Israel continued to receive throughout the embargo spare parts for her Mirages as well as for the manufacture of an Israeli-made fighter-bomber.

Economic Role Of Arms Export

During the recent Presidential campaign, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing made it clear that in his view France should abstain from selling arms to all belligerent nations on condition that the big powers do the same. Otherwise, he said, France should try to maintain a certain "security equilibrium" in areas of tension.

The French President, who served for 10 years as Minister of Finance, is, however, certainly aware of the important role arms exports play in France's economy and that one worker out of four engaged in the manufacture of weapons works for a foreign country. Political observers here believe that faced with the choice between imposing a total embargo on all the Middle East or lifting all restrictions, the President will choose the latter option.

HUSSEIN: PLO SHOULD BE AT GENEVA PEACE TALKS BUT PLO CANNOT BE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIANS

By Michael Solomon

OTTAWA, Aug. 8 (JTA)—King Hussein of Jordan said here yesterday that while he has agreed that the Palestine Liberation Organization should be represented at the Middle East peace conference in Geneva, he cannot accept the idea of the PLO as the sole representative of all the Palestinians. At a press conference following his talks with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Hussein asserted that "Jordan is the home of the overwhelming majority of Palestinians and I hardly can see how people, who have been under our jurisdiction for 25 years, should be represented by somebody else but us."

When asked by the JTA about an Izvestia article that said that as soon as Israel withdraw from Arab territories measures should be taken to prevent the area from falling under control of a "reactionary Arab regime," Hussein replied, "With all due respect to the Soviet Union we have more right to be involved with the Palestinians than they have, and will continue to be." He said he wanted "to see

the Palestinians exercise the right of self-determination whether they would remain with us in one country, federate or separate. Whatever their choice will be we will respect it."

Hussein said that steps have been taken toward peace in the Middle East and all efforts should be made "to keep the momentum going on." He said that Jordan did not as yet know the Israeli position. Asked about the NBC-TV report last Friday that he had met with former Premier Golda Meir May 27, Hussein smiled and said, "Yes, speculations have occurred many times" and there was no need for him to dwell on them.

Seeks To Recover Territory

Asked about Jordan's objectives in the Middle East negotiations, Hussein replied: "Frankly speaking, we wish to recover territories lost in the 1967 war, restore Arab sovereignty over eastern Jerusalem and make the whole of Jerusalem a city of peace and friendship. Following the recovery of territories I think we can introduce the principle of reciprocity between all the countries involved in the Middle East war."

Hussein, accompanied by his wife, Aliyah, flew to Canada piloting his own Boeing 707. He left for Vancouver today to be the guest of honor at the Abbotsford International Air Show and plans to go to Seattle Saturday and to stop in Washington, D.C. on his way home next week.

Hussein, however, hedged his planned trip to Washington because of the Presidential crisis, saying he would go to Washington "if circumstances permit." Asked about the impact of President Nixon's possible resignation or removal from office of the President, Hussein said he hoped any such developments would not hamper the "momentum" he said had been achieved toward a Middle East settlement.

HUSSEIN TO CONFER WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Jordan's King Hussein, currently making his first visit to Canada, plans to visit Washington next week to discuss with key U.S. officials his demand for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid al-Rifai reported here yesterday.

The Prime Minister said he made the arrangements for the visit during talks yesterday with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at the State Department. Rifai did not indicate the exact date for Hussein's arrival and, reacting to the prospects of President Nixon's imminent resignation, refused comment on whether Hussein expected to meet with Nixon during his visits, saying only that the King would meet with "government officials."

Rifai took a hard line on Jordan's demands on Israel as a condition for Jordan's participation in the Geneva peace conference. He insisted that "the next step must be an agreement for an Israeli withdrawal from parts of the West Bank as a first step toward convening the Geneva conference to discuss complete withdrawal. If there is no withdrawal," he declared, "it is useless to talk about peace."

Rejects PLO Claims

He also rejected reported Israeli suggestions that Jordan might be given civilian control of some West Bank towns while Israeli forces remained in the West Bank, adding, "we are talking about total Israeli withdrawal." He outlined Jordan's settlement goals as recovering the

West Bank, reestablishment of Arab sovereignty "over the Arab part of the city of Jerusalem" and then contributing toward making Jerusalem a city of peace "for all concerned." He said any problems after "recovery of the territory" could be dealt with "by reciprocity."

Rifai rejected claims of the Palestine Liberation Organization to represent Palestinians in the West Bank. He reiterated Jordan's position that it represents all Palestinians in Jordan, including the West Bank but that the PLO might represent Palestinians in other areas. However, Rifai said, if "all the Arabs" decided that the PLO should represent the Palestinians of the West Bank, "Jordan would disengage entirely from the negotiations."

Earlier this week Rifai expressed optimism about the prospects for a Middle East settlement after emerging from a two-hour talk with Kissinger. He gave no hints as to the basis for his optimism. Rifai came to Washington for talks with Administration officials a day after Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon left after conducting a week of talks with officials. Their visits, and those by other Arab and Israeli officials this month, are part of an effort to discuss next steps in Middle East peace moves.

MESHEL SAYS ISRAEL MUST PROVIDE SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS By Sue Macy

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Israel must "wage a relentless search for social justice for all its citizens," Yehoram Meshel, the newly-elected Secretary-General of Histadrut told 350 labor leaders at a luncheon in his honor today at the New York Hilton. The luncheon, sponsored by the American Trade Council for Histadrut, took place as Meshel prepared to leave for Washington for the final two days of his 10-day visit to the United States and Canada.

According to Meshel, the Yom Kippur War unified the working forces of Israel, and those feelings of unification have been carried over into the thinking of Histadrut, which has planned to expand its work among the underprivileged sectors of Israeli society. Noting that there are some 20,000 young people living in anti-social environments in Israeli slums, Meshel said, "Histadrut will go directly to them with vocational, cultural and social programs geared to constructive ends. Our labor organization will be move active to increase the knowledge of our citizens."

Meshel told the labor leaders that his meetings earlier this week in Chicago and Detroit with AFL-CIO members and their president, George Meany, as well as with United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock, resulted in pledges by both men to support Israel. "Israel is not asking for manpower—we will supply that ourselves," said Meshel. "But we need equipment from America if a war will start again, and we need American support to prevent the exploitation of raw materials for political profit by Russia and other countries."

A statement adopted by the AFL-CIO Executive Council on Tuesday pledged support for "a free and independent Israel" and urged the United States government "to provide all necessary assistance to this valiant people whose survival in freedom is a cornerstone to peace in the world."

Many Arabs In Histadrut

The social justice campaign which Meshel and Histadrut advocate includes Arab as well as Jewish worker, the Secretary-General said. "We have Arabs among our labor leaders and 70,000 Arab members," he said. "And in fact, we have

many Arab women leaders, too. All Arabs have exactly the same rights as the Jewish workers. Maybe the Arab states are upset that Israel is making more gains in employing Arab workers than they are."

On the present situation in the Middle East and the possibility of the outbreak of another war in Israel, Meshel said, to a response of boisterous applause from the labor leaders at the luncheon, "If a war will be again we will fight bitterly and I hope will win. We will fight to reach a lasting peace. We will never agree to divide Jerusalem again and we will not give up the Golan Heights."

Meshel, who has been active in Israel's labor councils for almost 30 years, became Histadrut's Secretary General in April, after having served as both Deputy Secretary-General and Acting Secretary-General. This was his first official visit to the United States.

ISRAELI ARMY HAS CONSTRUCTED DEFENSE LINES BASED ON LESSONS FROM THE YOM KIPPUR WAR

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)--The lessons of the Yom Kippur War were applied by the army engineering corps in the construction of new defense lines along Egypt's and Syria's lines, Gen. Yitzhak Ben-Dov, engineering corps' commander, said today in an army radio interview.

He described the new line on the Syrian front as an obstacles project which includes anti-tank trenches, barbed wire fencing, mine fields and bunkers. He said the bunkers were particularly needed because of the huge array of Soviet-supplied artillery emplaced by the Syrians. He added that the line was backed by heavy fire power because without it, any obstacle can be overcome by enemy effort.

A similar line, with modifications for desert conditions, has been constructed in Israel's limited forces zone in the Sinai facing the buffer zone manned by United Nations units, he said. He added that the construction of the Sinai line incorporated information accumulated by the engineering corps when Israeli units occupied the salient on the west bank of the Suez Canal during the war.

It was also reported that the defenses along the Lebanese border have been strengthened with barbed wire, lookout posts with powerful floodlights, more patrol roads and fortifications. Officials said the improvements had made that border almost impenetrable and that this may be the reason why terrorists now confine their actions to shooting across the border from Lebanon. The kidnapping of four Druze workers by Arab terrorists Tuesday took place at a section where the buildup of the line remains to be completed they added.

Reservists Called Up For Immediate Duty

Meanwhile, it was disclosed today that thousands of army reservists, mostly weapons technicians, had been called up for immediate duty, without the customary 40 days prior notice, and for longer periods than the usual 30-day annual reserve service. The call-up was ordered to speed repairs and preparation for service of tanks, armored cars, halftracks and other field vehicles.

It was learned that the decision for the accelerated call-up was made at top-level Defense Ministry consultations after Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur made a surprise visit to emergency repair depots of several military units. They concluded

that much work was needed to prepare equipment, damaged in the Yom Kippur War, for any future emergency. Soldiers in technical units were urged by Peres and Gur to volunteer for a longer service period because of the possibility of an emergency.

The call-up of so large a number of mechanics and technicians was expected to have an impact on services provided consumers.

INFORMATION MINISTRY IN DIFFICULTY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Policy differences and inadequate funding may bring an early end to Israel's first Information Ministry, which was formed after the Dec. 31 Israeli elections, sources here said today.

The government decision to reduce by 15 percent budgets of all government offices created new difficulties for the Information Ministry which still does not have a fixed budget. In addition, differences of opinion have developed between the Information Ministry and the Foreign Ministry over allocation of functions, particularly concerning Israeli information policies overseas.

Aharon Yariv, the Information Ministry's first head, reportedly accepted the ministry with little enthusiasm. He has now said that if Israel's current financial crunch does not allow for even a minimum operation of the ministry, the government should consider whether it really wants to have such a Cabinet post. But he denied press reports that he had threatened to resign from the Cabinet because of the ministry's difficulties.

BEIGIN, TAMIR DIFFER ON POLICIES

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Likud leader Menachem Beigin found his policies challenged this week by his longtime rival, Free Center leader Shmuel Tamir. At a Likud faction meeting in the Knesset, Tamir suggested that the post-Yom Kippur War reality required new policies from Likud if it purported to be an alternative to the party in power. But Beigin reaffirmed his opposition to any territorial compromise on the West Bank. The session--the first of several faction meetings intended to review Likud's political posture--revealed basic differences between the parties and personalities who comprise the bloc.

Liberal Party leader Elimelech Rimalt spoke out against Sebastia-type unauthorized settlement projects (which many Herut and other Likud Knesseters supported). He said he would come out publicly against any future such attempt to defy the government and the army. Zalman Shoval of the State List, and Avraham Yoffe of the Greater Israel Movement both agreed with Rimalt. Beigin said he personally could never refuse to join with pioneers who sought to settle the land of Israel.

POWER SHORTAGES PLAGUE ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)--Israel is again suffering from electric power shortages due to damage in a main unit at the Ashdod power plant, the second such incident in less than three weeks. Due to a defect in a power unit at the Haifa power plant, various parts of the country are witnessing sporadic power cuts, and other units have had to supply the Haifa region with power.

Because of the power cuts, factories had to delay production for hours and traffic jams were prevalent. This new electric current shortage is expected to be repaired by the end of the week. The first breakdown at the Ashdod power station occurred July 24, when one of the new turbines failed to operate properly and blackouts were produced in Tel Aviv and surrounding towns.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

OMINOUS WIND FROM MOSCOW

By Ehud Yaari

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Yasir Arafat's recent visit to Moscow ended Sunday with a carefully worded "Tass" communique. It was a masterpiece of diplomatic ambiguity, maintaining several contradictory interpretations. This ambiguity indicates, perhaps, that the Russians are still hesitating whether to commit themselves to one, clearly defined, course of action on the Palestinian issue. They would not put a final seal to their tightening alliance with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Arafat and his dozen colleagues were not too happy, perhaps, with this demonstration of Soviet prudence. However, they have no reason to complain: the Russians have made some really important practical steps towards them. Furthermore, in speeches and press articles Moscow has shown greater readiness to adopt PLO proposals than through the official "Tass" communique.

True, the PLO was not granted direct all-the-way diplomatic recognition. But a PLO "delegation" office will be opened in Moscow, and the Russians declared their intention to acquire a seat for the PLO at the Geneva peace table, on a basis of "equal rights" with the other participants.

The Russians limited their support for Palestinian "national legitimate rights" by a repeated emphasis on UN decisions (namely, Israel's right of existence). Yet, the most significant point was the expression of Soviet support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, to be controlled by the PLO.

PLO Leaders Are Moscow's Choice

For the first time, leading Soviet personalities—such as the Communist Party's "Foreign Minister" Boris Ponomarev and Izvestia's editor-in-chief Tolkunov—explicitly declared that the PLO leaders and the Palestinian "bourgeois" circles—are Moscow's choice to rule a Palestinian state. They also implied that Moscow may veto a return of the West Bank to Jordan in the framework of a federation or any other form. The "Tass" communique did not go that far, but it spoke of Soviet support for the PLO presentation of this plan in Geneva.

All this apparently amounts to what may be significantly summed up as a Soviet-backed alternative to the American vision of a Middle East solution. Whereas the core of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's (and Israel's) idea is a settlement for the Palestinians "via" Jordan, the Russians and their Arab clients aspire to keep King Hussein out of a Palestinian settlement.

In fact, this demand could mean an attempt to torpedo the whole process of negotiations, no less than an attempt to dictate the terms of settlement. It means a threat to the settlement prospects even more than a promise to protect Moscow's Arab friends' interests. Here is where Arafat's visit takes greater, graver, dimensions. For this new alliance bears unmistakable implications for the general Soviet attitude to the problems of this region.

SAMUELS ENDORSED BY SATMAR

NEW YORK, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Howard Samuels announced yesterday his endorsement by the Satmar Hasidic community. The Satmar com-

munity is the largest Hasidic community in the world, with an approximate membership of 100,000. In a news conference held at his headquarters, Samuels, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for New York Governor, was joined by Rabbi Leopold Lefkowitz, president of the Satmar community, and a large delegation of community leaders.

In a prepared statement, Rabbi Lefkowitz praised Samuels as "a man with a thorough and intense understanding of our community. By his commitment to our community in the areas of housing, business and job development, as well as aid to yeshivas, (he) shows not only a profound understanding of our specific needs, but a commitment to the survival of all communities. We heartily endorse his candidacy."

Samuels thanked Rabbi Lefkowitz and the Satmar community for their endorsement, stating, "Your endorsement today not only is gratifying to me in a political sense, but in a very real emotional sense as well. I have seen first-hand your yeshivas and your summer camps. I have seen first-hand your commitment to the principles and values that made this country great." Samuels termed the Satmar endorsement "the most important endorsement of the campaign, not only because it represents three percent of the primary vote, but because the Satmar community is looked up to due to their commitment to community cohesiveness."

ROSARIO CASTELLANOS, MEXICAN ENVOY TO ISRAEL, ELECTROCUTED IN ACCIDENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8 (JTA)—Mrs. Rosario Castellanos, the Ambassador to Israel from Mexico, died here last night as the result of an electric shock from a malfunctioning table lamp. According to reports, she apparently touched a table lamp at her home in Herzliyah and was electrocuted. She was rushed immediately to the Meyer Hospital in nearby Kfar Saba where she died an hour later. Preliminary investigations indicated that the lamp wirings were improperly or insufficiently insulated.

Mrs. Castellanos, a famous journalist and writer, had served in Israel for the past three years. She was well respected by her colleagues in the diplomatic corps and among the Israelis with whom she came into contact. One of her books was translated into Hebrew, the proceeds of which went to charity in Israel. The Israeli Foreign Ministry has notified the Mexican government of the Ambassador's death and is making preparations for the transfer of the body to Mexico City.

MONTREAL (JTA)—Dr. Leon Kronitz, immediate past chairman of the Canadian Jewish Congress national executive, was presented with an "Award of Recognition and Appreciation" by the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards for "distinguished service rendered to public education in the Province of Quebec." Dr. Kronitz was one of the original five Jewish members of the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, who were appointed to the office by the Minister of Education of Quebec at the recommendation of the CJC.

REHOVOT (JTA)—A group of 100 Arab junior high school mathematics teachers are among the 600 teachers from junior and senior high schools throughout Israel who are participating this summer in a series of in-service training courses offered by the Science Teaching Department of the Weizmann Institute of Science in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and Culture. The courses are taught by Institute staff members.