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AGRANAT COMMITTEE PROBING OCT. WAR CONDUCT FINDS TAPES MISSING; DOCUMENTS AND TAPES POSSIBLY ALTERED By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Dec. 4 (JTA)--The Agranat Committee investigating the conduct of the Yom Kippur War has come up against a situation reminiscent of Watergate--missing tapes, and tapes and documents that may have been doctored--it was disclosed today. The search for the material which is presumed to deal with events during the crucial initial stages of the war was prompted by Gen. Shmuel Gonen (Ret.), who was commanding officer of the Sinai front when Egyptian forces launched their surprise attack on Oct. 6, 1973.

Gonen was removed from command a few days later and after the war was severely criticized in the Agranat Committee's interim report. He now contends that information contained in a diary and on tapes that have been erased in part, could clear his name. Electronics experts who have examined the tapes could not say whether they were deliberately tampered with or erased accidentally. Other tapes dealing with events on crucial days appear to be missing.

The Agranat Committee has been given a neatly written diary kept by a girl soldier that refers to events of Oct. 8, 1973, one of the most critical days of the war when Israeli forces attempted to counter-attack the advancing Egyptians. But the Committee suspects that the diary is not the original and was in fact written after the war. Defense Minister Shimon Peres called for an overall investigation by the army into the matter, but apparently was overruled by Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin reportedly accepted the argument of Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur that an investigation might harm the morale of the army now in the process of rebuilding itself. An army spokesman said today that the inquiry into the conduct of the Yom Kippur War falls into the sole competence of the Agranat Committee, and the defense establishment "did not and does not now conduct any parallel inquiry into evidence and documents connected with the Committee's work."

Meanwhile, Gonen has applied to the Supreme Court to order the Agranat Committee to give him access to allegedly incriminating documents so that he can defend himself. The court, however, suggested that Gonen apply directly to the Committee and only if he is refused would the court be prepared to consider the matter.

EBAN REVEALS HE MET WITH HUSSEIN By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Dec. 4 (JTA)--Former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban revealed here that he met secretly with King Hussein of Jordan after the Six-Day War. Eban told an overflow crowd of some 2000 persons at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Monday night that he could admit it publicly now since it has already been revealed by a high Israeli official. He did not say where the meeting occurred, nor the exact date.

Eban, who was appearing at the Conservative congregation's "Dialogue '74," lecture series,

made his remarks after Dr. William Berkowitz, the congregation's rabbi, asked him about charges that Israel had dragged its feet in negotiations with Jordan, thus allowing Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat to replace Hussein as the leader of the Palestinians.

The former Foreign Minister said he knew better than anyone that this charge was untrue. He said that in discussions with Jordan, including the personal meeting he had with Hussein, the Jordanians had always insisted that Israel return all the territory taken in the Six-Day War including East Jerusalem, something which Israel will not agree to. Eban said Hussein was the first Arab leader to intellectually accept the existence of Israel. The Israeli diplomat also expressed belief that Jordan would make peace within the context of negotiations that included other Arab countries such as the Geneva peace conference.

Welcomes Another Geneva Meeting

Eban said he would welcome another meeting of the Geneva peace conference on the Middle East since the conference was an American-Israeli creation and offers a better chance of achieving results than debates in the United Nations General Assembly. He said the Geneva conference limits the negotiations to the nations directly concerned, and noted that this was the only possible way of achieving an agreement.

Calling this the "golden age of Israeli-American relations," Eban said that between the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and the end of November 1974 the United States had not done anything which had adversely affected Israel. He said he doubted the U.S. would change a foreign policy which so far has proven successful.

High Praise For Kissinger

Eban had high praise for Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and attacked those who claimed Kissinger had acted against Israel's interest despite the denials of Israeli officials. He said he approved of Kissinger's style of secret negotiations.

Throughout his remarks, Eban, now a Labor MK who is a visiting professor at Columbia University this fall, stressed that he disagreed with Woodrow Wilson's idea of "open covenants openly arrived at." He said only secret negotiations can succeed. Without them, Eban stated, the U.S. would still be engaged in fighting in Vietnam and Israeli soldiers would be dying needlessly on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts. Eban said the UN forum was useful only in explaining a country's position to the world.

The UN itself died in 1974, in a moral sense, Eban said, because of the General Assembly's "prostration" in front of Arafat and his PLO. He said the General Assembly has now made it "ten times more difficult" for peace to be achieved in the Mideast.

U.S. DECLINES TO SAY WHEN GENEVA SESSION WILL BE HELD By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (JTA)--The State Department, responding to reports that the Geneva conference on the Middle East may resume its activities early in the new year, has declined to indicate

when a session may be held. "It is up to the parties to decide when it will be useful to return to Geneva," Department spokesman Robert Anderson said. "We are perfectly prepared to return to Geneva when the parties decide to do so."

The Soviet-American communique issued in Vladivostok last week after President Ford and Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev had met, called for resumption of the Geneva conference as soon as possible. The United States, eager to continue its step-by-step negotiations in the area, opposes a Geneva session until additional bilateral actions are taken. Israel shares that view. The Soviet Union, however, would like to terminate the bilateral moves. Parties to the Geneva conference are the two superpowers, Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

Geneva Parley On Kissinger-Allon Agenda

It is understood that among the topics for the meeting here Dec. 9 between Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon is the Geneva parley and an exchange of views on the Palestine Liberation Organization that is reportedly demanding to enter the conference as a participant along with the other six.

Kissinger indicated today that he will continue his efforts toward a Middle East settlement in stages when he meets Allon. After briefing the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Kissinger told reporters, "We will continue our efforts in an attempt to produce step-by-step progress to peace in the Middle East."

Allon's meetings in Washington will be followed by a visit by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy. Kissinger is expected to try to achieve a compromise between Egyptian demands for further military disengagement in Sinai and Israel's insistence on concrete political concessions from Egypt in exchange for any new withdrawals.

Some surprise was occasioned at the State Department when it was disclosed that Undersecretary of State Joseph J. Sisco, who has been closely identified with the Middle East for six years, will not attend the meeting with Allon. Sisco will be in Iceland Dec. 8-11 on other matters.

DORON CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 4 (JTA)—Israel said today that after 25 years, "the time has come to take a fresh look" at the Palestine refugee problem "and prepare the way for a constructive settlement, in the framework of peace and regional and international cooperation." That statement was made by Ambassador Jacob Doron of Israel to the Special Political Committee on contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA).

Doron charged that the Arab countries "have considered it in their political interest to perpetuate the problem of the refugees and to use them as a weapon in their campaign against Israel." He said that over the years, the Arab countries have "rejected any kind of constructive solution of the refugee problem and have thus caused the perpetuation of the Agency of UNRWA. They cannot, at the same time, escape the consequences of their attitude and try to saddle the entire world with the cost of their political strategy."

Referring to UNRWA's perpetual deficit, he said, "the Arab countries should plug this hole in the UNRWA budget by assigning for this purpose a tiny fraction of one percent of their oil income."

The United States announced at the Special

Committee's session yesterday that the U.S. would increase its contribution to UNRWA in 1975. The U.S. representative, William E. Schaufele, said the U.S. pledged \$24.94 million pending a request to Congress to authorize a 15 percent increase, bringing the American share to \$26.8 million for the next fiscal year. In fiscal 1974, the U.S. contributed \$24.2 million plus a \$4.2 million emergency payment for a total of \$28.4 million of the \$86.4 million the agency received from all governments this year.

Schaufele hinted strongly that the oil rich Arab states should increase their share of the burden when he remarked, "It is imperative that other governments make new, increased or additional contributions." Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, gave \$650,000 to UNRWA in 1974, and Libya gave \$600,000. Much smaller sums were contributed by the other Arab oil states in the Persian Gulf area. Israel's contribution to UNRWA in 1974 amounted to \$625,000.

WORLD JEWRY HAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY MOBILIZED RESOURCES IN SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL, COJO MEETING TOLD

NEW YORK, Dec. 4 (JTA)—Representatives of Jewish communities on five continents, meeting here today under the auspices of the World Conference of Jewish Organizations (COJO), heard acting chairman Charlotte Jacobson of New York charge that world Jewry had "not sufficiently mobilized its resources in solidarity with Israel." Mrs. Jacobson spoke at the opening session of a two-day COJO meeting that will be addressed by Simcha Dinitz, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.; Alfred E. Atherton, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; David Landes, Professor of History at Harvard University; and Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations.

In her keynote address, Mrs. Jacobson urged the 75 delegates to intensify their efforts in building strong public support and understanding of Israel's political position. She cited the recent action of UNESCO in barring Israel from regional membership, asserting: "We must praise and support those distinguished scientists, educators and cultural leaders who have denounced the UNESCO action, but we must win many, many more to the cause. There is a vast untapped potential of support for Israel, even among people whose governments may vote against Israel in international forums. Today as never before it is our task to mobilize this support in every land where there is a Jewish community and men of good will."

The COJO meeting is being attended by delegates from these 11 organizations: American Jewish Congress; B'nai B'rith; Canadian Jewish Congress; Conseil Representatif des Juifs de France (CRIF); Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas (DAIA); Executive Council of Australian Jewry; Jewish Labor Committee; South African Jewish Board of Deputies; World Jewish Congress; and World Zionist Organization. Mrs. Jacobson is chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization.

FRANCE CONCLUDES \$850M ARMS DEAL WITH SAUDI ARABIA

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Dec. 4 (JTA)—France has concluded a four billion franc (about \$850 million) arms deal with Saudi Arabia involving tanks, airplanes and missiles, official sources here announced today. At the same time in Bahrain, Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz, announced during a televised press conference that his country had ordered French missiles. He added that

they were mobile and provided with an armored surface, the first of this type in the Middle East.

The sources here say the sale involved anti-aircraft and anti-tank missiles as well as 38 Mirages of the 3-E type, 200 AMX-630 tanks, and 250 armored troop transports and light armored cars. Construction of the military equipment has already begun and delivery is expected to take place within the next four years. Saudi Arabia has already purchased 15 million francs (\$3.25 million) worth of arms from France this year.

Responsible French sources indicated that some of the arms from the previous contract had subsequently been delivered to Egypt. The same sources declared that since the lifting of the arms embargo, France has found it difficult if not impossible to abide by the clause on non-reexportation of arms to third countries.

France is also teaching Saudi Arabian soldiers and officers in the use and handling of the tanks and planes. A new group of 30 Saudi Arabian pilots recently arrived in Dijon for training.

WORLD BANK, I.D.A., LENDING EGYPT \$120M FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (JTA)—The World Bank and its affiliated International Development Association is lending Egypt \$120 million for various projects including re-opening the Suez Canal, it was announced here today. A \$50 million loan toward the \$288 million canal clearance project will be provided by the World Bank, repayable over 20 years at an interest rate of eight percent.

The World Bank and the IDA are providing \$70 million to help improve facilities at the port of Alexandria and to expand Egypt's industrial and agricultural capacity. The Bank's \$35 million share is repayable over 25 years at eight percent while the IDA will extend interest-free credit for 50 years.

Clearance of the Suez Canal is being carried out by the Egyptian-owned Canal Authority with the assistance of the French, British, Soviet and U.S. navies. The project is expected to be completed by early 1978 but some ships will be able to navigate the waterway early next year. The World Bank noted that Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have already put up \$126 million toward the canal clearance project.

ISRAELI ARMY ENGINEERS COMPLETING GOLAN, SINAI FORTIFICATIONS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 4 (JTA)—The Israeli Army Engineers have almost completed fortifications on the Golan Heights and are moving most of their equipment to Sinai to complete fortifications there, it was learned today. The projects, which are being carried out with the assistance of civilian contractors, cost hundreds of millions of pounds.

The work on the Golan Heights includes the construction of dense series of strongpoints, anti-tank ditches, mine fields and winter quarters for troops. In Sinai, the static defense strategy represented by the Barlev Line has been abandoned for mobile defense. Nevertheless, fortified positions are being built and anti-tank ditches and mine-fields being spread all along the 100-mile front.

Egypt Violating Agreement

Israel complained to the United Nations Truce Observers Force yesterday that Egypt is violating the disengagement agreement by digging trenches in the limited armaments zone which could be used for missile launching sites and command posts. UN officers were reportedly investigating the charge. It was recalled here that Egypt started to

assemble pre-fabricated surface-to-air missile sites in the zone before the disengagement agreement with Israel was signed last January. After Israel protested, the Egyptians demolished the sites.

ISRAELI EXPERTS BOYCOTT UNESCO PARLEY

PARIS, Dec. 4 (JTA)—Israeli experts boycotted the opening session of a United Nations Educational Conference yesterday in protest over UNESCO's recent anti-Israel resolutions. It was the first opportunity for Israel to show its disapproval of the UNESCO actions barring it from the agency's regional grouping, condemning the archaeological diggings in Jerusalem and voting aid to the PLO. "I don't think we're going to do anything much more with UNESCO," one Israeli delegate said. He added that most of the agency's work was done in the regional conferences "and there we're no longer wanted."

Also this week, scientists scheduled to take part in a UNESCO chemistry symposium failed to show up. Three of them issued public statements condemning UNESCO's decisions against Israel. Some UNESCO officials here have privately expressed concern at the increasing politicization of the international organization.

In a related action, the upper house of the Swiss Parliament voted 29-3 yesterday to decrease Switzerland's contribution to UNESCO by 10 percent. The Council of States (Ständerat) accepted the proposal after a number of speakers rose to denounce UNESCO for its anti-Israel decisions. The proposal was sponsored by the Social Democrats.

COMPROMISE REACHED BETWEEN ISRAEL CORPORATION AND ROSENBAUM EMPIRE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 4 (JTA)—The Board of Directors of the Israel Corporation has decided not to participate in a consortium of creditors attempting to save the troubled financial empire of Swiss Jewish financier Tibor Rosenbaum. But the Israel Corporation, which had large sums invested in Rosenbaum's ventures, will not press its claims for restitution at this time while efforts are being made to salvage Rosenbaum's International Credit Bank in Geneva, it was learned.

The compromise was reached here at a two-day meeting of the board chaired by Baron Edmund de Rothschild. Before returning to Paris Friday, the French Jewish banker and philanthropist said he had assured Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Minister of Commerce Haim Barlev that the Rosenbaum scandal would have no effect on his support and devotion to Israel.

Another board action named Israel Gal-Edd, a former director general of the Development Ministry, managing director of the Israel Corporation. He succeeds Michael Tsur who was suspended last month for alleged questionable financial dealings with Rosenbaum. The board also voted 9-4 to appoint former Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar director general of the Zim Lines in which the Israel Corporation holds a 50 percent interest.

Zim, from which Tsur was also ousted last month, was one of several major Israeli companies that had funds invested in the Rosenbaum enterprises. Elazar, who commanded Israeli forces in the Yom Kippur War, was forced to resign after the Agranat Committee investigating the war found him responsible for Israel's lack of preparedness.

CASE PRAISED FOR RECOMMENDING U.S. CUT OFF \$16 M GRANT TO UNESCO

NEW YORK, Dec. 4 (JTA)—Two major Jewish organizations voiced strong praise today of Sen. Clifford Case (R-N.J.) for his role last week in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recommending that the United States terminate its \$16 million grant to UNESCO because of the anti-Israel resolutions it adopted almost two weeks ago.

Case introduced the UNESCO amendment to the foreign aid bill which stated: "The offensive resolutions recently adopted by UNESCO must be repealed. None of us can stand by and watch American money and talent being funneled through UNESCO to the PLO." The Foreign Relations Committee voted to rescind the grant.

In a letter to Case, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he was writing to express the gratitude and appreciation of the 32 national Jewish organizations that comprise the Presidents Conference. He stated that UNESCO "by surrendering to Arab political pressure through its votes to exclude Israel from any regional association and to withdraw financial aid to Israel, has abandoned all pretenses to serving its educational, scientific and cultural purposes."

Continuing, Rabbi Miller wrote: "The recommendation of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is fitting and proper—not only as an expression of our country's opposition to UNESCO's politization—but also as an indication of support for Israel as the target of Arab power politics on the international scene. Your leadership in the Committee's action on this issue is deeply encouraging to all of us."

Campaign To Pressure UNESCO

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith also applauded Case's role and urged "widespread vocal support" for the Senator's amendment. Seymour Graubard, ADL national chairman, announced that his organization is organizing a campaign to bring together all the creative people—scientists, writers, composers and artists—who contribute their talents to UNESCO "in an effort to compel the agency to withdraw the resolutions as the price of their continued participation."

Graubard termed the UNESCO votes "a vindictive play on the part of the Arab bloc and its allies which perverts the cultural purposes" of the UN agency. He said that these "political votes of vengeance" against Israel have tainted the image and effectiveness of UNESCO, and if they are allowed to stand unchallenged "they can and will be duplicated in other areas of international non-political governmental life."

Immediately after the UNESCO votes, leading Jewish and non-Jewish intellectuals, scientists, artists and writers in the United States, France, West Germany, Britain and Argentina signed petitions and sent statements to UNESCO declaring that they will not participate in the activities of that body until the resolutions are rescinded.

AGUDATH ISRAEL SAYS ISRAEL'S PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY RETURNING TO JEWISH VALUES

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Dec. 4 (JTA)—Agudath Israel of America urged "the leadership of the State of Israel to accept its current isolation in the international arena as a signal that relief from its problems can only come from a whole-hearted return to eternal Jewish values," in a proclamation passed on the closing day of its four-day national convention last weekend. The

convention was attended by 3000 delegates.

The proclamation declared: "There are many sides to our current dilemmas—political, strategic, economic, social, religious and existential. Yet, all are Jewish problems as they affect us, and as such they require Jewish solutions. We must respond with more generous giving, more intensive identification with Jewry and Judaism, deeper faith in God, and stronger commitment to Torah study.... We thus assure the State of Israel that we identify with its present beleaguered situation, and urge our membership to give it its utmost in aid and encouragement."

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein of New York, who heads the Moetzes Gedolei HaTorah (Council of Torah Sages) of Agudath Israel, and chairs its presidium, decried the fact that among the huge amount of queries he receives for rabbinical guidance, "Jews never seek halachic views on how to spend one's charity dollar or how to educate one's child." The famed Torah scholar lauded the Agudath Israel movement for "giving a new spirit of pride to Orthodox Jewry in this country as well as for its historic accomplishments in representing the interests of yeshivos at all levels of government."

Reception For Panovs Criticized

The "American Jewish Establishment" was sharply criticized by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel, for "treating in public receptions the Russian emigrant husband and wife team of ballet dancers (Valery and Galina Panovs), as if they were Jews, when Mr. Panov's mother was non-Jewish and his wife openly admits that she is not of Jewish origin." He stated that, "these public receptions, given by Jewish organizations to the Panovs as 'Jewish heroes,' are a damaging blow to the preservation of authentic Jewish identity." The Agudath Israel leader also announced that the Agudath Israel movement is expanding its social service programs for the Jewish community at an accelerated pace, which will help the aged and the needy "with programs provided with a unique traditional Jewish flavor."

Rabbi Menachem Porush, member of Knesset, who came here in order to address the convention, stated that "the Israel government leaders must understand that unless religion is fostered in the country, a secular citizenry can fall apart at the seams under the tensions of a growing sense of isolation." One of Europe's most distinguished Torah scholars, Rabbi Leib Gurwicz, the Rosh Yeshiva (dean) of the Gateshead Yeshiva, England, called for "an end to the despondency and pessimism which has gripped the Jewish consciousness," and pointed to historical examples of "Divine intervention, of which we must be worthy, which has consistently protected the Jewish people from those who would destroy them."

MRS. MEIR TO ADDRESS UJA CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 4 (JTA)—Three thousand American Jewish leaders are scheduled to be present at a major address to be delivered by Mrs. Golda Meir in New York on Dec. 14. The occasion for the speech is the banquet of the 1975 National Conference of the United Jewish Appeal. It is the first time Mrs. Meir is addressing Jewish leaders in the United States since stepping down from her post as Premier of Israel.

Highlights of the Conference will include an address by Leon Dulzin, treasurer of the Jewish Agency; the Louis Pincus Memorial Lecture, delivered by Prof. Irving Greenberg; director, National Jewish Conference Center; and a tribute to the 60th anniversary of the Joint Distribution Committee.