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EGYPT CONTINUING TO CONSTRUCT LARGE-SCALE FORTIFICATIONS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE SUZUK CANAL

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Egypt is continuing to build large-scale fortifications on the east bank of the Suez Canal and has beefed up its naval strength in the Gulf of Suez by way of the Suez Canal, it was learned today. Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur told reporters that Israel was keeping a close watch on the Egyptian build-up east of the waterway but stressed that there have been no major violations of the disengagement agreement that have gone uncorrected.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy warned in Cairo today that Egypt would go to war against Israel if diplomacy and peaceful methods failed to gain Egypt's objectives. Addressing the foreign relations committee of Egypt's Peoples Assembly (Parliament), Fahmy said, "If through diplomacy we find that we have reached a dead end, then it will become inevitable for us to resort once again to our armed forces who have proved on the battlefield their high efficiency and combat capabilities."

Egypt Stalling On Canal Reopening

Reliable sources here reported, meanwhile, that the Suez Canal is now navigable, although for political reasons Egypt is delaying its official reopening. The sources said the Egyptians have sent new naval units, including submarines, through the canal from north to south to reinforce their naval strength in the Gulf of Suez. The Egyptian fleet there is now at its strongest since the Yom Kippur War. It has three bases--at Adabiyeh, Ghardaka and Safagha, the sources said. According to another source, a 24,000-ton British tanker recently transited the canal in both directions.

Israeli naval units are continuing to patrol the eastern waters of the Gulf of Suez and are using the Jubal straits which have been cleared of Egyptian mines by Russian minesweepers. Previously, Israeli naval craft were forced to use the more difficult Milan straits.

Earlier, Israeli security circles said that they foresee intensive and increased supplies of Soviet military arms to Egypt. These circles stated that the large shipment of arms now reaching Egypt from Syria is the result of an agreement apparently signed by Fahmy and the Egyptian Chief of Staff when they visited the Soviet Union a few weeks ago. The flow of arms started after Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko's visit to Cairo three weeks ago.

WAVE OF VIOLENCE ALARMS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Israeli law enforcement officials are alarmed over a spreading wave of violence which has recently involved hand grenades and smoke bombs hurled by spectators at sports events and grenade attacks or threats at other public places.

A possible disaster was narrowly averted at the "Puerto Rico" coffee house in Eilat last night when a police officer wrested a grenade from a 19-year-old youth who was threatening to

blow up the place. The young man, who came from Haifa, pulled the safety pin from the grenade after announcing that he intended to kill everybody, including himself.

The policeman managed to seize the grenade and de-activate it with an improvised pin. The young man was arrested by military police who are trying to find out how he came into possession of the grenade that was obviously stolen from an army supply depot.

The incident was similar to the grenade attack by a 21-year-old army deserter that took six lives and injured 20 persons in a Netanya discotheque two weeks ago. A week after that incident, another youth shot three companions to death in a Petach Tikva flat.

Discussing these episodes before the Engineering Club here, Police Chief Shaul Rosolio said that special plain-clothes units were being assigned to mingle with the spectators at sports events to prevent violence. He noted that at recent football and basketball games, referees had been assaulted by spectators and grenades and smoke bombs were hurled to the fields or courts.

JEWISH AGENCY TIGHTENS ITS BELT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Extensive belt-tightening measures have been taken by the Jewish Agency to reduce expenditures in keeping with its pared budget and the present economic difficulties in Israel and abroad, the Jewish Agency Executive was told at its weekly meeting yesterday. About 150 vacant jobs have been abolished and a similar number remain unfilled. Temporary employees have been laid off and some permanent staff members have been shifted to more productive work, according to a report submitted to the Executive.

In addition, expense accounts have been trimmed, employees' allowances for cars have been reduced by 25 percent and proportionate reductions have been made in entertainment, hotel and other allowances, and a campaign is under way to reduce telephone and telex bills. The Executive also learned of the establishment of "saving committees" at the Jewish Agency's offices in London and Paris and a similar economy drive that is about to be set up at the Jewish Agency's American Section in New York.

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO CEMENT CRACKS IN LABOR PARTY EDIFICE By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Intensive behind-the-scenes efforts are being made to seal the widening cracks in the Labor Party edifice that threaten Israel's largest political party with a possible break-down into its three original constituent factions. Although the Labor Party's internal rifts are nothing new, they have been overshadowed by such recent events as Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's visit and the Sixth Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress which was concerned with unity between Israel and diaspora Jewry.

Now attention has been shifted to the quarreling between Mapai, Achdut Ha'avoda and Rafi, some of whose adherents seem ready to dismember the Labor Party if they can't dominate it. Premier Yitzhak Rabin, leader of the united Labor Alignment, has been able to devote little time to internal

politics. But his ultimate involvement is considered inevitable.

Meanwhile, attempts are being made to establish dialogues between the rival factions in Labor to avert a split. One such forum was vetoed by former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who, though presently chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, still wields formidable power within the Labor Party. Sapir has called for the abolition of the three Labor Party factions and argues that as long as they exist, any dialogue is doomed to failure.

'Unity Forum' May Avert A Split

Nevertheless, a new proposal has emerged for a "Unity Forum" that would include such veteran Labor personalities as former Premier Golda Meir, former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, former Agriculture Minister Yosef Almog and Moshe Carmel, former Minister of Transport. It would also include Histadrut Secretary General Yehoram Meshel, the various party secretaries and Sapir.

Such a powerful grouping within the Labor Party and representative of all of its factions, is regarded as the only one that can avert a split. It was proposed as an alternative to the old "kitchen cabinet" of the Meir government where in Mrs. Meir and a handful of her closest associates reached decisions on major issues without consulting the rest of their colleagues in the party and government.

Rabin is facing another problem in filling vacancies in his Cabinet. The Communications Ministry post has remained unfilled since Rabin took office. The recent resignation of Information Minister Aharon Yariv created another vacancy. The Premier is under severe pressure from the new immigrant lobby and Sephardic circles to name a minister from the Oriental community. The apparent choice of these groups is Mayor Tzvi Aldorati of Migdal Ha Emek.

The Labor Party, however, is not the only one facing serious internal difficulties. The National Religious Party is sharply split between its veteran leadership and its "young guard." The rift has been aggravated by recent scandals involving two leaders of the world Mizrahi movement--banker Tibor Rosenbaum and Rabbi Bernard Bergman who is under investigation in the U.S. for alleged fraud in connection with his nursing-homes there. Conciliatory moves so far have failed. The Likud opposition is also having trouble with its four-member Free Center faction which has recently split in two.

GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCT 1500 MORE FLATS FOR ELDERLY, SINGLE OLIM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, reported yesterday that he has obtained the government's agreement to construct an additional 1500 flats for elderly and single immigrants. He said that the Housing, Finance and Absorption ministries accepted the findings of a survey that showed the need for 3000 such housing units in order to solve one of the most complex and painful problems of absorption. Fifteen hundred flats had been earmarked previously for singles and the aged but Sapir insisted they were not enough.

The Jewish Agency chairman also reported that job openings were expected in the near future for scientifically trained immigrants at new chemical plants and related industries planned for new development projects. One chemical and fertilizer plant in the Haifa area has committed itself to

employ 60 immigrant scientists in the near future, Sapir said.

MAPAM'S KIBBUTZ MOVEMENT INTENDS TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Kibbutz Haartzl, the Mapam-sponsored kibbutz movement, has embarrassed Mapam's urban circles by announcing its intention to establish settlements in the Pithat Rafah region, an area sequestered by Israeli authorities several years ago to provide a buffer between the Gaza Strip and Sinai. Mapam was sharply critical of that move which required the dispossession of Bedouin tribes in the region, and has always demanded that the Bedouins be allowed to return to their lands.

The announcement by Kibbutz Haartzl contained the proviso that the Bedouin's rights be upheld. Nevertheless, its plans to place settlements in the area were seen in some Mapam quarters as an erosion of the party's position on the issue. Kibbutz Haartzl has established no new settlements in recent years, concentrating instead on the development of established kibbutzim.

It recently elected former Absorption Minister Nathan Peled as its secretary general, replacing Shimon Avidan and announced that the time has come to start new settlement projects. In addition to the Rafah area, Kibbutz Haartzl plans to build new kibbutzim in the Jordan-Valley, the Arava region, the Negev and Galilee.

UN ASKED TO HELP DR. STERN

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, said today that a United Nations official had said that UN representations would be made to the Soviet Union about Dr. Mikhail Stern, currently serving an eight-year term in a labor camp on charges of bribery. The official, however, declined to specify when or how the representations would be made.

Richter and three members of the Betar Youth Organization met with Edward Lawson, acting director of the UN Human Rights Commission, and I. Lutem, liaison officer between the New York and Geneva offices of the Commission. The meeting followed a peaceful five-hour sit-in yesterday by a dozen members of Betar in the meditation room of UN headquarters. The Betar members left peacefully after extracting a promise that a meeting would be granted. No action was taken against them.

Richter said he and the three Betar youth spoke to the two UN officials for an hour, mainly about Dr. Stern, asking for immediate intervention on the Soviet Jewish doctor's behalf "because Dr. Stern has said he expected to survive no longer than three or four months under the conditions in which he is being held" in the labor camp.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The next World Zionist Congress may be held in Jerusalem at the end of 1976, the presidium of the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) was informed at a meeting here Monday. The Council met under the chairmanship of Yitzhak Navon to plan its own next session. Most members appeared to favor a date near the end of this year. Avraham Shenker, head of the WZO's organization department, said that many members were opposed to holding a General Council meeting immediately after the Jewish Agency's General Assembly which usually convenes in June.

ISRAEL'S POLITICAL PARTIES GET SOME \$2.5 M ANNUALLY FROM JEWISH FUND-RAISING BODIES ABROAD

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Israel's political parties receive nearly \$2.5 million a year from Jewish fund-raising bodies abroad, it was announced here today. Premier Yitzhak Rabin was reported to have been "surprised" to learn how little of the money was allocated to his Labor Party compared to what some other parties received.

The largest single recipient is the National Religious Party which gets nearly IL 5 million for its "Israel Fund," while the two smaller Orthodox factions, Aguda and Poale Aguda, get IL 1.5 million between them, though neither are members of the World Zionist Organization. The World Confederation of General Zionists gets IL 2.4 million, some of which is funneled to projects of the Independent Liberal Party, while the Liberal wing of Likud receives a similar sum and Herut's Tel Hai fund gets just over IL 2 million a year.

But Labor and Mapam, which comprise Rabin's Labor Alignment, receive a total of IL 1.5 million which they share with Histadrut. Jewish Agency treasurer Leon Dulzin explained to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that this money comes mainly from United Israel Appeal funds raised outside of the United States.

A Practice For Many Years

Dulzin said the Labor Alignment's share seemed disproportionately small because Labor and Mapam benefit from the separate Histadrut fund-raising campaign conducted in the U.S. which brings in some \$5 million annually. He said Histadrut and Labor were reluctant to drop the separate campaign because they considered it valuable from the political and international viewpoints inasmuch as it included non-Jews and trade union groups in the U.S.

Dulzin said the allocation of funds raised abroad to Israeli political parties was a practice that has been going on for many years. He said that in 1966 the parties and the Jewish Agency Executive had agreed to end the allocations the following year, but the Six-Day War intervened in 1967 and the fund-raising bodies, particularly in the U.S., insisted on the greatest possible unity in fund-raising. Because of that, the idea of letting each party to fend for itself was dropped, Dulzin explained.

Yosef Klarman, Herut's representative on the Jewish Agency Executive, claimed that his party could raise more than its allocation in South Africa alone, but said it went along with the old system out of patriotic considerations. Nevertheless, Klarman said, he would continue to propose that each Israeli political party run its own fund-raising campaign abroad, stressing its own particular brand of Zionism. He said he believed that would be the most effective method to intensify Zionist activity abroad.

BUSINESSMEN WARNED THAT ARAB INVESTMENTS IN U.S. ARE DANGEROUS

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Zev Sher, economic minister of Israel in the United States, today warned American businessmen against the myth that "heavy Arab investments in the United States economy would not be dangerous." Sher said that the Arabs will not save the world with their money because it is linked with politics. Israel will suffer because of the combined politi-

cal and economic pressures and must become strong enough to resist, Sher said. He spoke at an economic symposium during the third day of the conference of the Israel Histadrut Foundation.

Turning to Israel's internal economic problems, Sher said "There is no crisis but there are five major areas of concern: financing the heavy defense expenditures, improving the balance of payments and stopping the drain on foreign currency reserves, curbing inflation, absorbing immigrants and improving social services for the entire population, and returning to a fast growth of the economy."

Estimating that 50,000 to 60,000 immigrants will arrive in Israel in 1975, Sher stated that \$1-billion would be needed to provide them with homes, jobs and education.

Rabbi Leon Kronish, chairman of the Foundation's board of directors, called on every Jewish family to "adopt Israel as another child." Rather than spending \$5000 for an extra car for their children, Rabbi Kronish suggested "we should make this money available for the education of children in Eilat and Dimona and Tivon, and for homes for young married couples and army veterans." The Histadrut Foundation is engaged in raising \$5 million for 1000 mortgage units of \$5000 each for this purpose.

No Faith in Kissinger

Simon Weber, editor of the Jewish Daily Forward, at a Yiddish-speaking session of the conference last night, said that he had no faith in Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. "The Arabs and the Russians do not want peace in the Middle East," he said. "There may not be war but there will be no peace. Lately, Mr. Kissinger said he would not knowingly betray Israel, but knowingly or not the results of his efforts would be the same. He does not know where he is going."

Noting that the Arabs are spending \$260 million annually on propaganda, Weber declared that this is affecting some politicians and the media in the United States, although the Gallup Poll shows that 52 percent of Americans are pro-Israel.

SOVIET MIGs SHIPPED TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Soviet Union has shipped six supersonic MIG-23 fighter planes of the latest model to Egypt according to a report here attributed to Pentagon intelligence sources, which said the aircraft were delivered at Alexandria last week aboard a Soviet freighter. They were described as the first significant new weapons to reach Egypt from the USSR since last April.

While the Pentagon declined to discuss the report, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that it stemmed from sources that are well informed and reliable. The sources doubted that the MIG-23 shipments indicated a major increase in Soviet arms supplies to Egypt. But they qualified their doubt by observing that they did not have sufficient information to express it as a fact. The MIG-23 is purportedly one of the highest flying, fastest combat aircraft in the world.

The sources said that Egyptian pilots selected to fly the highly sophisticated MIG-23s would go to the Soviet Union for training because it would be impolitic for Russians to conduct the training in Egypt at the present time when the U.S. is involved in trying to promote further negotiations between Egypt and Israel. The report on the MIG-23s seemed to conform with other published reports that Soviet arms shipments to Egypt were proceeding at a high rate. (By Joseph Polakoff)

