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SYRIA GROUPING ITS FORCES

MENACINGLY ON GOLAN HEIGHTS

Seen As Part Of War Of Nerves Against Second-Stage Accord In The Sinai By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Syria is shuffling its forces on the Golan Heights in a menacing manner apparently to add weight to the psychological warfare campaign Damascus is waging against a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai. So far, the Syrians have confined their activity to the region behind the limited forces zone and are not, therefore, in direct violation of the disengagement agreements.

But Gen. Raphael Eytan, commander of the northern front, warned last night that Israeli forces must be ready for sudden overt moves by Syria. Addressing an awards ceremony for women soldiers, Eytan said that could happen "in the very near future. We must be aware that it can come upon us in a flash, quicker than we think," he said.

Most Israeli observers believe the Syrian moves are calculated to maintain tension on the Golan Heights with periodic feints and re-enforcement of their troops. These moves are coupled with increasingly bellicose statements from Damascus aimed at discouraging Egypt from negotiating a new agreement with Israel.

A similar situation was provoked by the Syrians last October which caused a partial mobilization of the Israeli army. The Syrians backed down at that time but apparently succeeded in their aim of forcing Israel to keep large forces, including reservists, at the ready.

More threatening gestures by Syria are expected if and when Israel and Egypt begin to negotiate a second-stage agreement and when the six-month extension of the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) nears its expiration date.

RABIN: ISRAEL CAN DEFEND HERSELF, BUT NOT AGAINST A SUPER-POWER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin said last night that Israel was capable of defending itself under any circumstances, except in the case of a super-power--meaning the Soviet Union--actively arrayed against it. "If a super-power against which even the whole of Europe cannot stand alone is against us, then, with all due respect to Israel, it cannot stand alone either," Rabin told students during a question-and-answer session at Bar Ilan University.

The Premier was replying to questions on reports that the United States was studying guarantees to Israel and possibly a defense pact to back up a settlement with Egypt and other Arab countries. Rabin stressed that guarantees or defense pacts, however assuring, were no substitute for Israel's ability to defend itself with its own forces. The Premier reiterated his belief that Egypt was the key to a Middle East settlement. He reminded the students that the Soviet Union continues to ignore Israel and arm the Arab states.

In a related development, Defense Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that Kissinger's latest peace effort had not changed the situation

in the Mideast but merely clarified positions on both sides. In an interview with Radio Station Europe Number One, Peres also stated that Egypt and Syria had failed to come up with any new solutions to the conflict. "We have had no serious proposition from the Egyptians on the political level, neither officially nor otherwise. For me, the best thing is direct contact between us and the Egyptians, even somewhere in the Sinai. There we could make a decisive step toward peace," Peres said he thought an acceptable solution would be the return of the Mittle and Gidi passes to Egypt and for Israel to retain Sharm el-Sheikh.

HUSSEIN SUPPORTERS URGING WEST BANKERS TO REJECT RABAT DECISION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Supporters of King Hussein are campaigning vigorously on the West Bank to persuade the inhabitants of the Judea-Samaria regions to repudiate the decision of the Arab summit meeting at Rabat last October recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and their negotiating instrument.

West Bankers are reportedly being urged to declare their allegiance to the Hashemite monarchy in Amman. Pro-Jordan petitions are being circulated for signatures throughout the West Bank. Hussein's supporters intend to send delegations into Jordan, Syria and Lebanon with petitions expressing the loyalty of the West Bank population to Jordan and will confront the PLO in Damascus and Beirut with these expressions of sentiment against the Rabat resolutions.

STATE DEPARTMENT PLAYS DOWN REPORTS THAT U.S. IS STUDYING GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL AT THIS TIME

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The State Department appeared to play down today reports that the U.S. was studying guarantees to Israel in connection with a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai. Department spokesman Robert Anderson told reporters that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger did not engage in any kind of discussions with Middle East leaders on the possibilities of U.S. guarantees of a peace settlement in this phase of the diplomacy he is presently conducting.

"We have no proposals on this line--guarantees unspecified," Anderson said, adding, however, that "it may be relevant" in time. Anderson, who accompanied Kissinger on his recent visit to the Middle East, said that the "various parties, publicly, from time to time, mentioned guarantees but more in the context of an overall settlement." He stressed several times, in reply to reporters' questions that the guarantees mentioned are "unspecified." He said that during his Middle East trip, Kissinger made no proposals regarding "the next interim step or guarantees or anything else" and that "we have no proposals here but obviously it will be looked at here in due course."

Anderson's remarks today seemed to contradict reports yesterday that a senior U.S. official told reporters on Kissinger's plane between Zurich and Paris that the State Department, at the

Secretary's instructions, was studying U.S. guarantees to Israel. According to the reports, the official said the study was being conducted by the State Department's legal and military experts and that two of the questions they were considering were who would determine when a situation arose that required the implementation of guarantees and what the U.S. would be obligated to do if such a situation occurred.

Asked if Kissinger had discussed Mideast guarantees at his breakfast meeting with Congressional leaders at the White House this morning, Anderson said he didn't know, but that the Secretary probably would have told the Congressmen the same thing he was telling reporters.

Kissinger will meet with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee next week. He had lunch today with its chairman, Sen. John Sparkman (D, Ala.), Sen. John Stennis (D, Miss.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said on leaving the White House meeting with Kissinger today that the Secretary's report on the Middle East had been "very illuminating." He said no date has been set for resumption of the Geneva peace conference.

Another Interim Step Before Geneva

Anderson described the Secretary as "guardedly optimistic" that future progress can be made on an agreement between Israel and Egypt. Asked why Kissinger was determined to return to the Middle East next month, Anderson said that the "momentum" for further progress required talking directly with Mideast leaders. He said the "next step" in Kissinger's diplomacy "is very definitely another interim step." Anderson stated he would not discuss when the Geneva conference might be resumed because "the main point is to concentrate on the next step" and "if that is successful, then to consider what to do next."

Asked about reports that Syria is trying to upset a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement, Anderson said that Kissinger had "very good talks" with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Damascus. He said he knew of no development that changed the Secretary's view that another step might be achieved between Israel and Egypt.

Anderson noted that if the next step is successful, Kissinger would be "in close consultation with Assad to determine what would be necessary to do." Anderson did not comment on reports today that the Secretary was troubled by a Syrian campaign to thwart a new Israeli-Egyptian agreement.

On his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base from Paris yesterday, Kissinger told reporters, "I believe we have made some progress on establishing the framework for further negotiations in the Middle East." Asked how many steps would be needed to reach a Mideast peace settlement, the Secretary replied, "I don't know but I hope we can move a step at a time." He said he was not claiming any major results for his recent trip.

RULING SWEETER THAN WINE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The ruling by Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef that Israeli wines are permissible for Passover use despite certain doubts recently cast on their kashrut, appeared to be unchallenged today, much to the relief of the country's leading vintners who have already exported thousands of cases of wines and grape juice labeled "Kosher L'Pesach."

The Chief Rabbinate Council, at a meeting in Tel Aviv last week, did not ban the wines produced by Carmel Mizrahi, Eliaz and other firms, but

stated that the Council would not be responsible for their kashrut. That disclaimer was regarded by Rabbi Yosef as an affront to his earlier ruling, supported by a "bet din" (rabbinical tribunal) that the wines were permissible.

Yosef supporters attributed the slight to Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren who is perpetually feuding with his Sephardic counterpart. Neither of the Chief Rabbis attended the Council meeting at which they normally serve as co-chairmen.

The Chief Rabbinate Council held another ad hoc session today--also unattended by the Chief Rabbis--but skirted the wine issue. The chairman of today's session, Rabbi Katriel Tchursh, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Council has not investigated the halachic aspects of the case and he couldn't say whether it would. He said, however, that since Rabbi Yosef and his associates had cleared the wines, there was no reason to ban their use here and abroad.

Rabbi Yosef Urges Caution

The doubts arose some weeks ago when it was alleged that certain wineries used starch, a leavened (chometz) substance instead of fruit in the fermentation process which would have rendered the wines unusable for Passover.

Rabbi Yosef said his investigation disclosed that the starch was not used in the wines but in other beverage products and that the machinery had not been cleaned between uses. He ruled in consultation with other rabbis that sufficient time had elapsed between the use of the machinery to remove any doubt about the kashrut of the wines. However, Rabbi Yosef cautioned observant Jews not to consume liquors and other liquor products produced by the wineries this Passover.

MAPAM CLARIFIES RAFAH SETTLEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--The Mapam-sponsored kibbutz movement, Kibbutz Haartzli, will establish settlements in the Pithat Rafah area only after the rights of the Bedouins dislodged from that region are restored, Mapam secretary general Meir Talmi said today. Addressing the Mapam Secretariate, Talmi said the party continued to oppose the dispossession of Bedouin tribes from the region that the Israeli army declared a military security zone several years ago. The region forms a buffer between the Gaza Strip and northern Sinai.

Talmi said the Bedouins had suffered wrongs which have not been corrected and demanded that the government send a commission to the Rafah region to examine what he termed the "dislodgement of the Bedouins." Only after the Bedouins' rights are restored will Kibbutz Haartzli settle the area, he said. Talmi spoke in reply to the criticism from some Mapam circles of Kibbutz Haartzli's announcement that it planned to establish settlements in the Rafah region.

SAPIR APPEALS FOR ALIYA

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Pinhas Sapir, chairman of the World Zionist Organization and Jewish Agency Executives, declared here last night, in an appeal for aliya, that Israel's greatest deficit was not money but people. Speaking at the closing session of a four-day economic conference of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, Sapir said, "to us, the Jewish people, there is no price tag on Jewish life." He said "We need to double" the not quite three million Jews in Israel.

Sapir, who was lauded in cabled messages from Israeli President Ephraim Katzir and Prem-

Yitzhak Rabin, received an award symbolizing the \$36 million raised by the Foundation since its establishment 15 years ago. The conference launched the 1975 drive for deferred gifts and annuities to benefit Histadrut's health, educational and welfare programs in Israel. During the conference, \$1.76 million was raised as the first step toward the \$50 million plateau to be reached within the next year or two, officials said.

In accepting the award, Sapir said help from the Histadrut annuity fund "provides not only the necessary hard currency which Israel requires at this time, but, more important, in the specific area of Histadrut, it helps provide the \$25 million that Histadrut pledged to mobilize for mortgage money for newlyweds and army veterans who have returned to civilian life" so that they can "begin a new life."

Major Commitments Announced

Among major commitments announced at the conference were gifts of \$100,000 from Mr. and Mrs. George Schaefer of Miami for expansion of a Histadrut Youth Village at Tivon near Haifa; \$75,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Simon Dietch of Chicago, in celebration of Dietch's 70th birthday at Maalot, for construction of a cultural center there; and \$50,000 from Izzie Bressler of Miami for a cancer research center at the Beersheba Kupat Holim Hospital.

Dr. Sol Stein, who established the Foundation, was re-elected president. Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami was continued as chairman of the board of directors.

DAYAN SAYS ISRAELI AND JORDANIAN LEADERS MET SEVERAL TIMES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said tonight that Israeli leaders and Jordanian leaders, including King Hussein, met several times between 1967 and 1973 but failed to work out a peace agreement because Hussein demanded Israeli pull-backs that were unacceptable.

Dayan, who made the disclosure in the latest of his series of lectures at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, said it was necessary to do so to refute allegations that Israel had missed opportunities to reach a settlement with Jordan and therefore must now deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Dayan refused to pinpoint when or where the meetings took place or to say who participated on the Israeli side.

According to unconfirmed press reports that have appeared here and abroad in recent years--always vigorously denied--the participants included Yigal Allon and Dayan himself. Allon, now Israel's Foreign Minister, was Deputy Premier and Minister of Education in the government of former Premier Golda Meir. Dayan said the peace efforts failed because Hussein was adamant that Israel withdraw its forces from the Jordan River "and we could not agree to this," he said.

KATZIR TO ADDRESS ISRAEL BONDS; WILL ALSO CONFER WITH FORD

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Israeli President Ephraim Katzir will be the guest of honor at the 25th Inaugural Conference dinner of the Israel Bond Organization in Miami on Sunday, March 2, it was announced today by Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. Katzir's visit here to participate in the conference will mark his first trip to the United States since he assumed the office of President. He will ad-

dress more than 2000 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada gathered in Miami to plan a program of action to help alleviate the economic crisis that besets Israel today.

(It was announced today in Jerusalem that Katzir will meet with President Ford in Washington on March 3.)

While the forthcoming conference in Miami will focus its greatest attention on broadening the scope of the Israel Bond drive to meet Israel's critical economic needs in the coming year, its sessions will also be devoted to celebrating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Israel Bond program by Israel's first Premier, David Ben Gurion, in September 1950, Rothberg said. In conjunction with the anniversary celebration there will be special ceremonies marking the attainment of \$3 billion in the sale of Israel Bonds which have emerged as the major source of economic aid for Israel during the past quarter century.

FIRST RABBI TO BE PROMOTED TO RANK OF REAR ADMIRAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Sen. Hugh Scott (R, Pa.) announced to the Senate that Rabbi Bertram W. Korn of Philadelphia will be promoted to Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy on July 1, becoming the first Jewish chaplain to achieve this rank. Rabbi Korn, described by the Senate Republican leader as "a distinguished historian and a good friend," is senior rabbi of the Congregation Keneseth Israel (Reform).

He joined the Navy as a Lieutenant in April 1944 during World War II and served both the Navy and Marine Corps, including two Marine divisions in the China theater. Joining the Navy reserve in 1946, he organized the reserve chaplain's company in Cincinnati two years later. He compiled two editions of a guide for Navy reserve chaplains and researched the appointment of the first Jewish Army chaplains during the Civil War.

PROTEST AGAINST PAN AM PLANNED

NEW YORK, Feb. 20 (JTA)--Yisrael Hatzair, the youth group of the National Council of Young Israel, said today that it would sponsor a mass protest demonstration at the Pan American building here March 9 to demand that Pan American World Airways discontinue its service to Syria because of Syria's mistreatment of its Jewish citizens. "We will protest, demonstrate against and confront those who deal with the Damascus murderers of Syrian Jewish men, women and children. Pan Am is only our first target," said Arnold Grant, director of the Orthodox youth group.

In an unrelated development, the financially troubled airline has acknowledged that it was encountering a small but noticeable boycott by Jews since the announcement that the Iranian government would acquire 13 percent of its stock. Company officials said that about 20 letters and telephone calls protesting the deal were received immediately after the initial press reports were published.

A Pan Am spokesman said the airline was explaining to the protestors that Iran was not an Arab country and was not allied with the Arab states that had been at war with Israel. He conceded that it was difficult to convince them of the distinction. Several travel agencies in the New York area confirmed that a number of their Jewish clients going abroad have indicated they would not use Pan Am even though it was pointed out that the Iranians are not Arabs.

