



# daily news bulletin

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## \$18 B WORTH OF ARMS ORDERED BY ARABS SINCE YOM KIPPUR WAR

Coordinated Effort In Building War Machine By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The Arab countries have ordered \$18 billion worth of arms since the Yom Kippur War--much of it already delivered--and their re-armament is continuing at a pace that suggests a deliberate decision at the Arab summit conference in Rabat last October to emphasize the military option in the Middle East conflict, Israeli sources said today.

The sources saw evidence of a coordinated effort by the Arab states in building their war machines. There is no indiscriminate buying but each country carefully selects the weapons it wants, knows where to find them and the weapons purchased by one Arab state are frequently transferred by pre-arrangement to another, the Israeli sources reported. While the Soviet Union continues to be the main supplier of Arab arms, certain Arab states have received sophisticated electronic devices, aircraft and anti-tank weapons from Western sources as well, the sources said.

Since the Yom Kippur War, the Arab states have received \$4 billion worth of weapons from the Soviet Union and other East European Communist bloc countries. Egypt, in particular, has been a major recipient of Soviet arms despite its much advertised complaints that the Soviets were reneging on their weapons commitments.

Israeli experts say that while there may have been some delays in delivering certain items, the Egyptians have already received 1000 tanks from the USSR, half of them the latest T-62 type, hundreds of armored personnel carriers, 100 artillery pieces, 15 SAM anti-aircraft missile batteries of various types, surface-to-surface missiles of the "Frog" and "Scud" types, bridge-building equipment and several naval craft.

### Specific Deliveries Cited

The delays have been mostly in delivering aircraft. But Cairo has begun to receive the highly sophisticated MIG-23. In addition, Saudi Arabia, which is financing Egyptian arms purchases, has transferred Mirage-3 jets and helicopters it bought from France to the Egyptian Air Force. Egypt is also buying Mirages directly from France.

Syria, which lost 200 combat planes in the Yom Kippur War, has gotten 300 new planes from the USSR so far, the Israeli sources said. It also received 1100 tanks and hundreds of armored vehicles from the Soviet arsenal. Syria's "Frog" missiles have been augmented by a supply of "Scuds" and East Germany has supplied Syria with hundreds of tank transporters.

Iraq has also received tank transporters from East Germany and "Scud" missiles from the Soviet Union. The latter has also supplied Baghdad with 100 planes, 100 helicopters, 300 tanks and 300 artillery pieces, the Israeli sources reported. Libya, which was denouncing the Soviet Union not too long ago, has concluded a \$2 billion arms deal with Moscow, the sources reported. Part of the arms to be delivered under this

deal is intended for transfer to other Arab states.

## DINITZ SEES NO EROSION OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz asserted yesterday there was no erosion of support for Israel in Congress but there was an unwillingness to spend money which will inevitably affect Israel. Dinitz made his remarks to a meeting here of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"I see no disenchantment or criticism of Israel nor any diminution of support for a strong and viable Israel," Dinitz said. He added that there was a more critical approach in the Congress toward anything dealing with money, there was a mood to tie the hands of the Executive and there was a weariness over international obligations.

But Dinitz said he expected Israel's economic and military aid package, which is due to come up in Congress during the next 50 days, will be approved. He said Congress still strongly supports Israel because the American people support Israel.

However, Dinitz said that next year aid for Israel would need strong Presidential and Administration support in Congress. He said Congress would no longer increase the Administration's request for Israel as was true in the past. He said because of the economic conditions in the United States, Congress will be less willing to appropriate foreign aid and noted that Israel's "closest, best friends" in Congress agree with the assessment.

### Kissinger Not Withholding Aid

Dinitz denied that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was withholding sending arms or any other aid to Israel pending an Israeli-Egyptian second stage agreement. But he said if such an agreement was reached, the atmosphere it would create would result in a more favorable response to Israel's request.

Dinitz told the Presidents Conference that he was irked by those latter-day saints who take it upon themselves to remind Israel that peace is imperative for the Jewish State. He said Israel needs no reminder that it needs peace and noted that all the wars Israel has fought were forced upon her by the Arab states either through invasion or blockade. Dinitz did not identify the saints.

At the outset of the meeting, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Presidents Conference, expressed the gratitude of the Jewish people for President Ford's statement yesterday in Hollywood, Florida, deploring religious and ethnic discrimination as a result of Arab pressure.

## DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ORDERS PROBE INTO ARAB BIAS AGAINST JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen announced today that the Defense Department has ordered an inquiry into alleged discrimination against Jews abroad. He said, under questioning by newsmen on reports that the U.S. Army Engineers Corps did not employ Jews on assignments in Saudi Arabia, that "the Defense Secretary has already asked all military

services to look into the practices across the board to see if discriminatory practices are being followed."

Nessen reiterated President Ford's statement at a Hollywood, Fla. press conference yesterday that the Justice, Commerce and State Departments also had instructions to investigate allegations of discrimination against American Jews involving Arab countries to see if laws were being violated. Asked if the President would immediately order an end to the alleged practices, Nessen replied, "It's not something where you can pick up a phone and bark an order." He reaffirmed the President's statement yesterday denouncing all forms of discrimination, saying that view applied in general to the Administration's policy.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary William Simon cancelled a joint press conference he was to have held today with the Saudi Arabian Finance Minister, Muhammad Ibn Ali Aba Al-Khail, to report on the results of a two-day meeting of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation. A spokesman for the Secretary said the press briefing was cancelled because Simon had an appointment in New York. But according to informed sources, the current furore over the Arab boycott of Jewish-owned banks and firms doing business with Israel was the reason for the cancellation.

#### ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION URGED

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The chairman of the board of the American Bank and Trust Co. and the president of B'nai B'rith have asked Congress and the President to introduce legislation to counteract the use of the Arab boycott against American individuals and businesses.

In a letter addressed to the entire New York State Congressional delegation, the bank chairman, Abraham Feinberg, condemned the blacklist of the New York bank as "blackmail obnoxious to our American ideas" and said "it certainly represents a flagrant violation of our laws against restraint of trade." He called upon the Senators and Representatives from New York who, he said, represent the financial center of the United States and the free world, to introduce legislation to counteract the "outrageous act of the Arab boycott office."

Feinberg stressed that the more than 50,000 depositors and stockholders of the American Bank and Trust Co. pay taxes to the federal government that indirectly supports U.S. economic assistance to Egypt, Syria, and other Arab countries represented in the Arab boycott office which has promulgated the boycott list. "We have a solemn obligation to protect our interest. They will want to know what their elected representatives are doing about the Arab blacklist and boycott," Feinberg said.

"I would hope that all legislators will request the Secretary of State to lodge a formal protest with all Arab governments against these actions and advise them of legislation soon to be introduced on this subject."

In a letter to President Ford, B'nai B'rith president David Blumberg declared that it "be made crystal clear that American principles and policy are not for sale." He added: "Not since Hitler subsidized Nazi organizations and propaganda in the United States has there been so insidious an attempt to subvert American public policy and divide the American people."

Blumberg said that the U.S. needs "another civil rights law" to ensure that the anti-discrimi-

ination gains of the past generation "are not vitiated by foreign states." B'nai B'rith sent similar appeals for the development of legislation to Sen. William Proxmire (D.Wisc.), chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, and Rep. Peter Rodino Jr. (D.NJ), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

#### KAHANE ORDERED TO BEGIN SERVING ONE-YEAR JAIL TERM MARCH 18

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, was ordered yesterday to begin serving a one-year jail term on March 18 on conviction in federal court here on charges of violating a 1971 probation. A spokesman for the JDL confirmed this will be Rabbi Kahane's first jail term, although he was held for 30 days detention in Israel. Rabbi Kahane was scheduled to surrender yesterday but federal Judge Jack Weinstein granted a three-week extension to allow Rabbi Kahane to finish a four-state lecture tour of college campuses.

Barry Slotnick, Rabbi Kahane's attorney, said last Friday he would appeal the sentence, but yesterday he said he was not planning an appeal. He also said a state probation violation hearing on March 13 might result in an additional jail term for the JDL founder. In pronouncing sentence, Judge Weinstein said Rabbi Kahane would probably serve his term in a minimum security prison with special measures to safeguard him from any attacks by other inmates. The JDL spokesman said he did not know why plans for an appeal had been dropped.

#### STATE DEP'T. HAS NO REACTION TO ASSAD'S APPARENT RETREAT ON PEACE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The State Department has chosen not to react to the apparent retreat by Damascus from Syrian President Hafez Assad's statement that he would sign a formal peace treaty with Israel if certain conditions were fulfilled. That statement, contained in a Newsweek magazine interview with Assad, was hailed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger at his press conference here Tuesday as "a major step forward" by Syria and an indication of its changed attitude toward a Middle East peace settlement.

But a statement put out in Arabic yesterday by the director of President Assad's press office in Damascus said that the report of the Newsweek interview "does not truly reflect its contents, particularly concerning the question of a peace treaty." Asked to comment on Damascus' back-tracking, State Department spokesman Robert Anderson said he had not seen the Damascus statement. He repeated, however, that any willingness to sign a peace treaty is a major step.

The brief statement by Assad's press aide did not specify what may have been misquoted from the Newsweek interview which has not been published in Arabic. Sources here believe that the Assad interview was intended for American consumption and today's disclaimer was prompted by Kissinger's upbeat reaction to it.

Meanwhile, preparations are underway for Kissinger's return trip to the Middle East next month. State Department sources said the Secretary will probably begin his Mideast junket in Aswan, Egypt on March 7. He leaves Washington on March 8 for Cardiff, Wales, on a ceremonial visit.

TEL AVIV (JTA)--An explosion and fire totally destroyed a bus in Holon Wednesday afternoon after all passengers were safely evacuated.

## **JTA PRESIDENT DEMANDS APOLOGY FROM KENDALL FOR SHOVLING POLAKOFF**

### **Asks Anderson To Investigate Incident**

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)--William Landau, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, has protested formally to Donald Kendall, co-chairman of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council, for pushing a JTA correspondent in Washington last week in interference with his rightful newsgathering duties. Landau asked Kendall to apologize to the reporter, JTA Washington Bureau chief Joseph Polakoff, and to the JTA. A copy of the letter was sent by Landau to Robert Anderson, Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Press Relations, requesting an investigation of the incident.

Landau said, in his letter to Kendall, that he was "deeply disturbed" by Polakoff's report "that you pushed him, placed your hands on his shoulders and interposed yourself between him and Mr. Vladimir Alkhimov during a press conference at the Madison Hotel in Washington on Friday, February 21."

Alkhimov, the Soviet co-chairman of the joint Council, responded briefly to questions by Polakoff at the conclusion of the press conference and then moved to the end of the dais to speak to other reporters. When the JTA correspondent started to join that group he was confronted and blocked by Kendall.

Landau noted in his letter that Polakoff's report of the incident was conveyed, in part, in a New York Times report of the press conference published Feb. 22 which he quoted. The Times reported that Alkhimov sought to meet criticism of Soviet policies toward Jews by asserting that his country was a multi-national state of 130 nationalities, all of whom were treated well.

The Times' account then stated: "One of the newsmen attending, from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, denied that Jews had the same rights, citing the lack of Yiddish-language textbooks and schools. The American officials on the platform tried to cut him off."

### **Infringement On Freedom Of The Press**

Landau's letter continued: "Your actions, in trying to prevent Mr. Polakoff from questioning Mr. Alkhimov and attempting to exert physical pressure in the process, can only be viewed as an infringement on the freedom of the press and the pursuit of public information on the part of a reporter who was assigned to cover the conference. Your actions furthermore, constitute a violation of democratic rights." Kendall is chairman of the PepsiCo Corp.

In the covering note to Anderson, Landau stated that Kendall's actions do not, "it seems to me, help in obtaining vital information on a subject that is of profound importance to the Jewish people in this country and abroad."

### **ALLON CONFERS WITH GERMAN LEADERS**

BONN, Feb. 27 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon spent most of the day in conference with West German leaders. The talks centered on economic cooperation between Israel and West Germany and although few details were disclosed, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on a radio interview that Israel could count on DM 140 million from West Germany this year for capital development. That sum has been granted regularly over the past few years for housing, telecommunications and other civilian projects.

Allon, on the second day of his three-day of-

ficial visit to West Germany, met with Finance Minister Hans Apel and the Minister for Economic Cooperation Egon Bahr. He had private talks with Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, President Walter Scheel and Franz Josef Strauss, leader of the Christian Socialist Union, the Bavarian wing of the Christian Democratic Party.

No talks were held on the issue of reparations but both the Israeli Minister and his hosts appeared satisfied with the progress of their discussions so far. Genscher said today that West Germany's "balanced" policy in the Middle East was understood and accepted by Israel. He said that policy permitted his country to better serve the cause of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East than a partisan policy.

Genscher said Bonn's commitment to balance was in the interests of all parties concerned and would have been followed even if there were no energy crisis. It is not "opportunistic," the German Foreign Minister stressed. He expressed the view that current peace efforts have a chance to succeed and that he believed Israel was ready to negotiate and make some moves toward a solution. The Middle East was the main subject of Allon's two hours of talks with Schmidt. They also discussed other international issues including trade and oil.

### **U.S. INVOLVED IN LEBANESE BANK BLACKLISTING JEWISH FIRMS**

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (JTA)--The U.S. government's official involvement in a financial organization in Lebanon that has been blacklisting Jewish banking houses surfaced today as an investigation by federal agencies widened and deepened on the Arab boycott and discrimination against Jews and companies linked to Israeli business enterprises. State Department sources acknowledged that the Credit Commodity Corporation, a subsidiary of the Department of Agriculture, has shares totaling \$11 million in the Intra Investment Co. in Beirut, one of a half-dozen large Arab concerns blacklisting Western banks that deal with Israel.

According to these sources, the CCC acquired \$22 million in shares in a private bank that had failed and was taken over by the Intra Investment Co. Since then it has reduced its holding by half and they now amount to about 5 1/2 percent of the bank's capital. Last week in Paris, the bank's chairman revealed it as blacklisting Jewish firms and those linked to Israel.

The State Department emphasized to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "the United States did not concur in the chairman's decision, had no say in it, and does not endorse it." It said that the U.S. is arranging to dispose of its shares to the Lebanese government. Intra Investment was described as being mainly owned by Lebanon, Kuwait and Qatar and has been involved in funneling Arab petrodollars into the money market. Kuwait is one of the countries most hostile to Jewish concerns.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau of Canada has pledged his country's support "in every respect" of Israel's right to "exist in peace as an independent state within secure and recognized boundaries, free from threats and acts of force." Trudeau's statement was contained in a message of greeting he sent to the Canadian Zionist Federation currently holding its national convention in Jerusalem.

# BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## A WAVE OF VIOLENCE

By Uzi Benziman

**JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (JTA)**--Ten persons have been murdered, shops and a discotheque have been gutted by fire. These have been the tragic results of a string of four crimes that took place in Israel recently. The bitter fruit of these events has brought Israelis to ask themselves whether the country is entering upon an unprecedented era of violence.

In Netanya - the flourishing resort city north of Tel Aviv, a 24-year-old soldier, Avraham Ezra, is accused of throwing a hand grenade into a discotheque, killing six people and injuring another 26. Ezra has a long record of delinquency and hooliganism, having spent a good deal of time in prison for related offenses. Recently, he was inducted into the army under a special program designed to reappraise the eligibility of persons originally exempted from service on grounds of unsuitability.

In Petach Tikva - one of the first modern Jewish settlements in the land of Israel and now a city of 100,000--a 21-year-old unemployed youth went berserk and killed three of his friends. The youth, Yosi Padova, armed with Uzi submachinegun, crashed into a friend's apartment and gunned down three of the six people watching TV there. In Jerusalem, a shopkeeper was shot to death by a masked robber, as his 12-year-old daughter looked on, when he refused to hand over the day's take. In Ashdod - one of the most successful new towns in the south, six shops were burned to the ground as a result of a mysterious blast.

## Incidents Evoke Concern

There seems to be no apparent connection between the four events apart from the fact that they occurred within the same brief time span. Nevertheless, the wave of unconnected incidents has provoked some profound questioning among the press and public. Do they indicate a new era of brutality and violence? The anxiety increases when it is remembered how many civilians in Israel are equipped with personal weapons, available to help them defend their families against Arab terrorists.

Of the four crimes, the one which deserves the most careful attention is the murder in Netanya. Was it an isolated incident or the reflection of a systematic process? Police Chief Shaul Rosolio described the murder in the discotheque as a reflection of Israeli society's failure to deal with delinquent youngsters. Rosolio added that the discotheque bombing should serve as a warning that fringe youth could resort to acts of violence "beyond what we think credible." Speaking to newsmen, Rosolio rejected the idea that a wave of organized violence was sweeping the country. He warned against what he called "developing theories about the existence of an organized underworld."

Public opinion, however, has not been entirely convinced by his pronouncement. Newspapers have published articles and analyses aiming to prove that things are not as simple or "small-time" as Rosolio had described them. Newsmen claim that the murder in the discotheque could be connected with protection rackets. Protection, in its Israeli underworld connotation, is said to mean an enforced watchman service in the entertainment centers and in the open street markets.

According to several articles in the press, the underworld offers such services in exchange

for permanent payment. Those who refuse to be "protected" by the underworld guardsmen find themselves under a rough pressure: their nightclubs are prone to staged fights and nuisances created by uninvited guests; they receive threatening letters, and their enterprises are the targets of mysterious burnings and blasts. The police have consistently maintained that in Israel there is no organized crime in the American sense of the term. They tend to deny theories expounding the use of an organized pressure or violence by the underworld.

Rosolio has pledged that the police will give top priority to fighting violence, but, he added, this was a problem for society as a whole. Rosolio described the recent events as "a manifestation of the violence in relations between ordinary people--in their way of expression and of talking, and as a means for achieving illegal objectives." In this sense, Israel did not differ from developed countries in the West, he said. Israelis by-and-large believe they have enough problems without strong-arm crimes and the "protection" racket. They want to believe, despite newspaper reports to the contrary, that the four tragic events were isolated incidents and not the signs of a dangerous phenomenon.

## KISSINGER MEETS WITH JEWISH LEADERS

**NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)**--Following an hour-long meeting with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Jewish leaders said yesterday they had acquired a "better understanding" of the Administration's Middle East policy and the relationship of U.S.-sponsored bilateral negotiations to a final peace settlement. Serving as spokesman for the group were Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and Max Fisher, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Jewish Agency.

Rabbi Miller and Fisher led a delegation of 16 heads of national Jewish organizations which met Tuesday with Kissinger for one hour in his office. In a statement reporting the meeting, Rabbi Miller and Fisher said that the Secretary had given the Jewish leaders a comprehensive review of the Middle East scene with emphasis on the current status of negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

Kissinger, according to the statement, gave the Jewish leaders an overview of what the U.S. seeks to accomplish in the Middle East explaining the step-by-step procedure, and answered questions about American guarantees of a Middle East settlement and the American response to Arab boycott pressures. "Secretary Kissinger reiterated Administration support of a militarily and economically strong Israel and its importance to the U.S.," the Jewish leaders stated, adding: "We had a friendly, frank and full review of the current situation and a fruitful exchange of ideas."

## CHRISTIAN BARNARD DEFENDS STERN

**NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (JTA)**--In a recent interview released to the National Conference on Soviet Jewry by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, the noted heart surgeon, Dr. Christian Barnard and his brother, Dr. Marius Barnard, commented on the trial of Dr. Mikhail Stern, a practicing physician for more than 25 years in the remote Ukrainian city of Vinnitsa who was sentenced to eight years in prison. The noted South African doctors said that they are "not prepared to believe that a man regarded as a noted endocrinologist and medical doctor will stoop to the trivial and ridiculous crimes alleged. We strongly protest the incarceration of Dr. Mikhail Stern."