



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th St. New York, N.Y. 10036

© 1975, Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc.

Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Monday, March 17, 1975

No. 52

## GUR WARNS ISRAEL'S NORTHERN BORDERS MENACED BY PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ARMY SHOULD SYRIA DECIDE TO LAUNCH A NEW WAR

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur has warned that several thousand members of the so-called Palestinian Liberation Army, controlled by Syria, are deployed over a wide area of the northern frontier ready to serve as the spearhead of a general attack on Israeli military and civilian targets should the Syrians decide to launch large-scale hostilities in an attempt to sabotage a second-stage agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Gur voiced his warning that Israel's northern borders may be the first target of a new Middle East war after touring the Golan Heights and the Har Dov region Friday. He said the Palestinian irregulars were poised in positions from Fatahland to the Hasbani River.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who accompanied Gur, repeated the same warning later in an address to high school students. Both he and Gur stressed that Israeli forces were fully ready to deal with any contingency. But the Chief of Staff conceded that a new war would be a fierce one with no illusions about any magical victory. "The battlefields of today are crammed with sophisticated weapons and equipment and any new war between us and the Egyptians or Syrians could produce the largest tank, artillery and aerial battles in history," he said.

### Maneuvers Cause Concern

The remarks by Gur and Peres were made against the background of stepped-up military activity by Syria and Egypt. Both countries have recently conducted large-scale military maneuvers on their sides of the disengagement lines. While these have been conducted openly and in full view of Israeli forces, the very lack of secrecy has caused some concern in Israeli circles.

They recall that large-scale maneuvers by Egypt and Syria in October 1973 suddenly erupted into the attack of Oct. 6, starting the Yom Kippur War. The lack of concealment at that time was one of the factors that misled Israeli intelligence experts in their estimation of Syrian and Egyptian intentions.

While the situation on the Egyptian front is not considered menacing at this point, at least as long as Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger continues his efforts to promote a second-stage Sinai agreement, Syria's intentions are unpredictable. President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has said publicly that he has no intention of attacking Israel. But no similar assurances have emerged from Damascus.

### Syria's War Machine Re-Equipped

Israeli circles, moreover, take a very serious view of the massive build-up of Syria's war machine by the Russians. The Soviets have put larger quantities of heavy arms at Syria's disposal than in October, 1973. The Syrian Air Force, which lost 200 of the 330 combat aircraft it had on the eve of the Yom Kippur War,

now has 400 planes, including the MIG-21 and the newer, highly sophisticated MIG-23 and SU-11.

On the ground, the Russians have more than replaced the 1000 tanks Syria lost in the Yom Kippur War. The new Syrian armor includes the new Russian T-62 tanks and the Syrian artillery has been bolstered with some 1000 new heavy pieces including the 180 mm. cannon which has a 32 kilometer range.

The Syrian arsenal also includes the "Soud" ground-to-ground missile and a sizeable stock of "Frog" missiles which proved effective in the Yom Kippur War. Israeli security officials estimate that a Syrian first strike would be launched by the Palestinians with assaults on civilian and military targets along Israel's borders to be followed by Syrian missile attacks on Israeli cities and a frontal assault on the Israeli army.

### WORLD CHESS FEDERATION EXCLUDES ISRAEL AS SITE FOR 1976 GAMES

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--A decision by the World Chess Federation that would exclude Israel from consideration as a possible site for the 1976 International Chess Olympiad, has been protested by the Israel Chess Federation. The Israeli group said it wrote to the Federation, meeting in Holland this week, pointing out that Israel is the only country so far to submit an offer for next year's contest but was ruled out on the basis of the political situation in the Middle East. "On the basis of purely chess interests we have both the right and the resources to host the 1976 Olympiad. The situation in Israel is far from being a war zone," the letter said.

### INFLATION RATE SLOWS DOWN

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Israelis got some good news on the economic front over the week-end. Figures released here by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the rate of inflation has slowed down. Only a 1.5 percent rise in the cost-of-living index was recorded for the month of February.

While economists said that this was in line with an expected total COL 18% hike for 1975, it was less than expected in view of last November's devaluation of the Israel Pound and other economic austerity measures which sent prices soaring. The modest increase covered a broad spectrum of goods and services but no appreciable rise was noted in any particular item.

In contrast, the COL index in February, 1974 rose by 10.8 percent. The CBS also reported that the cost of housing remained stable in 1974 for the first time in years. During October-December last year, only 2700 new apartments were sold compared to 3200 during the preceding three month period. The price of flats has been a major cause of accelerating living costs in recent years.

### SENATE TO CONSIDER AID ACT THAT INCLUDES \$324.5 M IN ARMS AID TO ISRAEL, \$40 M FOR SOVIET REFUGEES

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--The Senate Appropriations Committee will take up tomorrow the \$3.5 billion Foreign Assistance Act that the House of Representatives approved Thursday by only 11 votes over, mainly conservative opposition

in both major parties. The vote was 212-201 to provide assistance for the remainder of the fiscal year which ends June 30. The program is currently financed by a resolution extending foreign aid spending at the 1973-74 level.

Israel was allocated \$324.5 million in economic assistance; \$300 million in military aid of which \$200 million are in credits, and \$40 million for Soviet refugee resettlement. Egypt was granted \$250 million in economic aid; Jordan \$77 million in economic aid, \$100 million in military aid; and \$100 million was set aside for Middle East "requirements" but understood to be for Syria.

Several Congressmen spoke up strongly for support to Israel while critics of the bill never mentioned Israel. Their criticism was directed at the entire spending program at a time of economic stress at home and for helping nations hostile to America. Rep. Garner Shriver (R, Kansas) struck a general note of support in urging that Congress "give our Secretary of State the leverage he needs in his current attempt to secure a more peaceful climate in the Middle East."

In opposing the bill, Rep. Robert E. Bauman (R, Md.) pointed to American unemployment and double digit inflation and assailed those who are in favor of "appropriating sums for countries in the Mideast that are raising our oil price, for countries in South America that are hijacking our boats, and for other countries who are aiding our enemies to fight against us."

#### Congressmen Defend Israel

Rep. Harold E. Ford (D, Tenn.), a freshman Black Congressman from Memphis, said "Israel is our only consistently dependable ally in the Middle East and a bulwark against Russian penetration of that area. We must continue to provide an umbrella of financial strength for this courageous country so that it can continue to deal with confidence in the negotiations so important to world peace."

Many Congressmen in approving the bill spoke warmly of Israel. Rep. Otto Passman (D, La.), the appropriations subcommittee chairman who engineered the legislation, outlined the funding for "our one very real ally, Israel." Urging passage of the \$665 million for Israel, Rep. Clarence Long (D, Md.), declared:

"For those who might think this is too much for Israel, let me remind them that Israel's adversaries have been getting much more foreign aid from many donors, including the United States." Long observed that Israel is receiving only "approximately one-third of what the three confrontation Arab countries--Syria, Jordan and Egypt--have been getting in aid from all various sources, including the United States, the Soviet Union and the Arab oil producers."

Rep. Charles A. Vanik (D, Ohio) pointed out that in the current negotiations, "Israel will require not only assurances from Egypt but assurances from our own country that she will be able to maintain the capability to deter future Arab aggression."

Vanik observed that "it should be clear that the Arab states will never enter into a peace agreement with a weak Israel, one they feel they could defeat militarily. It is also true that a weak Israel will be unable to take the risks involved in negotiating with her adversaries, Israel desperately needs the funds authorized to maintain her defense, to assist her strained economy, and to ease her unprecedented econ-

omic burdens."

#### GOLDA HAS SECOND CATARACT OPERATION

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Former Premier Golda Meir recently underwent surgery for the removal of a cataract from her eye. It was the second such operation in recent weeks for the 76-year-old former leader. Both were successful. Mrs. Meir, seen at Hadassah Hospital Friday where she went for a post-operative examination, appeared to be in good health.

#### PROF. MARK DWORZETSKY DEAD AT 67

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Funeral services were held here today for Prof. Mark Dworzetsky, a physician and Holocaust research scholar, who died yesterday at the age of 67. His funeral was attended by hundreds of former partisan fighters of the Wilno ghetto and other survivors of that once flourishing Jewish community in Lithuania.

Dr. Dworzetsky, himself a partisan fighter in the Wilno ghetto during World War II, was a leader of the World Organization of Jewish Partisans and the Partisans and Ghetto Fighters Organization of Israel. Until recently he held the Holocaust studies chair at Bar Ilan University and was a member of the board of the Yad Vashem Memorial Institute.

While an inmate of a Nazi concentration camp he studied the physical behavior of fellow inmates from a medical viewpoint, their nutrition and problems of rehabilitating normal physical functions. These aspects of his experiences became the subjects of several books he wrote on the Holocaust.

#### KATZIR RETURNS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--Israeli President Ephraim Katzir attended two synagogue services here Friday night before returning to Israel last night. At the worship service at the Park East Synagogue he said: "I shall be returning to Israel with fine and encouraging memories of the Jewish communities I have seen and with hope for even greater economic and educational cooperation and constantly increasing pilgrimage to Israel."

Katzir, who was greeted by the congregants, religious leaders of all faiths, and leading state, federal and city government officials, said that "despite the clouds, the difficulties and uncertainties in the life of Israel, and, I fear, of the whole free world, the joint devotion, belief and sacrifice of Israelis and Jews abroad will continue to make possible what outsiders sometimes see as practically impossible--the strength and spiritual creativity of the State of Israel within a more rational and peaceful Middle East."

On behalf of the Park East Synagogue's congregation, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, spiritual leader, presented Katzir a mounted silver Torah breast plate. In his sermon the rabbi said: "American Jews are not uneasy or ambivalent about their support of Israel. More than ever before they understand the partnership of Israel and the Jewish people in shaping Jewish destiny and survival."

At the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, Katzir was called for a reading from the Torah. In his sermon Rabbi Emanuel Rackman lauded Katzir as the "symbol of the unity of the Jewish people not only in Israel but throughout the world." As Katzir entered the synagogue, the congregation rose and he was greeted by Rabbi Rackman.

Earlier in the week about 100 demonstrators, mostly Arab students, disrupted a speech by Katzir at the University of Michigan where the molecular biologist and bio-physicist was to receive an

honorary degree from the university's law school. The demonstrators began chanting "Free Palestine" and "Down with Zionism," 10 minutes after he began to speak and prevented him from continuing for 30 minutes. The demonstrators were finally removed by police.

### THIRD ROUND OF TALKS BEGIN

#### BETWEEN ISRAELIS, KISSINGER

Cabinet Adopts No Positions, No New

Proposals Will Be Offered To Egypt

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger began his third round of talks with Israeli leaders here this evening, presumably on the latest Egyptian position conveyed to him during his two days of discussions with President Anwar Sadat at Aswan last week. Kissinger arrived at Ben Gurion Airport late this afternoon from brief visits to Damascus and Amman for meetings with Syrian President Hafez Assad and King Hussein of Jordan. He was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and they left immediately by car for Jerusalem without speaking to reporters.

Kissinger's latest meeting with the Israeli negotiating team, headed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin began at 6 p.m. local time. Six hours earlier, the Cabinet, meeting in secret as a ministerial security committee, heard reports from the Israeli negotiators on the present state of negotiations for a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement in Sinai.

A government communique issued after the meeting stated: "The Cabinet, sitting as the Ministerial Defense Committee, was briefed by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and the Defense Minister regarding the Egyptian responses transmitted by Dr. Kissinger and empowers the team to continue with the negotiations on the basis of the resolutions adopted by the Cabinet in the past as guidelines for the ministerial team."

That communique was a clear indication that the Cabinet has adopted no new positions since Kissinger's return from Egypt and that no new proposals will be offered to the Egyptians, at least for the time being.

#### Some Movement, Progress Reported

Well placed sources indicated tonight that there has been some movement on the military aspects of the accord and some "progress" on "general" elements of the political aspects. The sources had said earlier in the day that agreement on military provisions could probably be attained without insuperable difficulties but the political aspects remained crucial. This evening the sources said that Egypt appeared to be prepared for a second-stage accord that would be public, direct, bilateral and mutual, as Israel has demanded.

But Cairo is still not prepared to consider either a formal declaration of non-belligerency or the major "component parts" of a non-belligerency accord on which Israel insists. The formulae which Egypt has proposed as a formal undertaking are not much more far-reaching than those applied to the January, 1974 disengagement agreement, one source said. The Egyptians, in other words, are willing to incorporate the language of the earlier agreement into a new one but are not willing to go beyond that at this point.

Israel, on its part, is seeking concrete signs of a radical and meaningful change in Egypt's attitude, the source explained. Egypt must dem-

onstrate that it is ready to resolve its conflict with Israel by peaceful means and to accept Israel as a permanent fixture in the Middle East. Such signs are not yet evident. "Egypt is apparently seeking concessions from Israel while continuing to align itself with the Arab hardliners who aim at the elimination of the Zionist State," the source said. He added that if indications of a real change are not forthcoming, "there will not be a settlement."

#### Accord On Joint Military Patrols Possible

It was learned, meanwhile, that Kissinger protested strongly to Rabin last Friday after a high level Israeli official was quoted as saying that the Egyptian ideas and proposals conveyed by Kissinger were unsatisfactory in many important areas. The official said later that his remarks must have reached the Secretary "out of context." He insisted that he did not say that Israel rejected all Egyptian ideas nor that there were any differences between Israeli leaders and Kissinger. But the official stood by his statement that Egypt's response in many areas was unsatisfactory.

The feeling here, nevertheless, is that Egypt would agree in principle to a phased Israeli military pull-back over several months, to a more permanent United Nations presence, to demilitarization and to other Israeli demands related to a withdrawal. Although Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy has denied reports that Egypt was amenable to an Israeli proposal for joint military patrols to supervise a second-stage agreement, the feeling here is that, all other things being equal, an agreement could be obtained on that point.

It was announced in Amman today that King Hussein has accepted Kissinger's invitation to visit Washington at the end of next month. That announcement was the only statement to emerge after two hours of talks between Kissinger and the Jordanian ruler this afternoon.

#### PERCY: ARABS SHOULD SAY PUBLICLY THAT ISRAEL HAS RIGHT TO EXIST

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--Sen. Charles H. Percy (R., Ill.) says he believes "the Arab leaders should convey" to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the government of Israel "in clear and absolute terms" that the State of Israel has the right to exist in peace and security. "Ideally, they should state it publicly," Percy said in remarks prepared for delivery in a radio broadcast in Chicago today. A copy of his remarks was given by his office to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Percy said that he "frankly" does not know what the Arabs will give up in return for "substantial Israeli withdrawals," but he listed a series of 11 items which "the Arabs could do." These include dropping "the futile Arab boycott," putting Israel "literally on the map because today Israel does not appear on Arab maps of the area," and "establish limited diplomatic relations; very much as we have done in China, leading to full diplomatic recognition of Israel."

"These are tactics," Percy said of his 11 points, that "the Arabs should take in their own interest and in the interest of peace." Percy did not name any Arab country in his remarks.

\*\*\*

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Members of the Japanese Makuya sect, a group known for its solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people have recently requested the Jewish National Fund's permission to plant cherry trees in memory of their spiritual leader, Prof. Ikuro Teshima.

