



# daily news bulletin

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## SCHLESINGER; SECURITY OF ISRAEL REMAINS AN AMERICAN OBJECTIVE

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA)--Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger said today that "the security of the State of Israel remains an American objective." Interviewed on CBS-TV "Face the Nation," he also stated that the U.S. will not enter into any new commitments on the shipment of arms to the Middle East until the reassessment ordered last month by President Ford is completed. The reassessment, which began two weeks ago will continue for another four weeks, Schlesinger remarked.

The Defense Secretary noted that up to April 1, the "termination point" of U.S. arms shipments to Israel, there was a very substantial shipment of arms which put Israel in a better position than she was in October 1973. He did not indicate whether the 1973 position was before or after the Yom Kippur War.

Schlesinger also stated that there is "deep concern" that there may be a renewal of conflict in the Middle East this summer but that according to latest intelligence reports things are a "little quieter now" in that area. He stressed that the reassessment by the U.S. of the Mideast applied to all the countries there, not just to Israel. He said the U.S. would reconsider "just where we are going" with regard to all Mideast states and all issues in the area.

## FISHER TELLS ISRAELI LEADERS THAT FORD, KISSINGER WANT TO TRY AGAIN

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--Max Fisher of Detroit, a Jewish leader and chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, reportedly informed Premier Yitzhak Rabin on Friday that President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger believe there is room for another American effort on an Israel-Egypt pact before the full Geneva conference reconvenes. Fisher is "a personal friend of Ford and met with the President several days ago.

Fisher arrived in Israel last Thursday and met almost at once with Rabin. His impression--that Ford and Kissinger want to try again--was reported by Yediot Achronot's top diplomatic correspondent, Arye Zimuki. Fisher himself was not immediately available for comment. Present at Fisher's meeting with Rabin were top officers of the Jewish Agency--Pinhas Sapir, chairman; Leon Dulzin, treasurer; and Moshe Rivlin, director-general.

Fisher is reported to have told the Israeli leaders that he had felt some atmosphere of tension in U.S.-Israel relations. But the Administration seemed to prefer thinking of future steps rather than churning over the recent failure of Kissinger's shuttle mission. Fisher reportedly said he felt that Washington believes Israel missed an historic chance to obtain a settlement--but that it too was now interested in improving the strained relations with Jerusalem (By David Landau)

## EGYPT RETURNS ISRAELI WAR DEAD AFTER ISRAEL AGREES TO CONDITIONS

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA)--Egypt returned the bodies of 39 Israeli Yom Kippur War dead

with full military honors in the Sinai buffer zone today after Israel agreed to the release of 20 Egyptian nationals imprisoned for security reasons and other conditions demanded by Cairo.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres who was present with other Israeli dignitaries to receive the bodies, assured the country earlier that no prisoners convicted of terrorist or sabotage offenses were released. The 20 freed men were identified as Bedouins of Egyptian nationality who had carried out intelligence activities for Egypt. Israeli authorities denied that Archbishop Hillarion Capuocci, serving a 12-year sentence for smuggling arms to terrorists in Israel, was included in the Egyptian demands.

Although Egypt had promised long ago that no conditions would be attached to the return of bodies, Israel accepted Cairo's terms because of the deep emotions it feels toward its fallen soldiers. Israel claims that 17-18 of its men still listed as missing in Sinai remain to be accounted for.

In addition to freeing the Bedouins, Israel agreed to Egypt's demand that it permit an Egyptian convoy to carry supplies to Bedouin flood victims in northern Sinai; that it allow the opening of a Red Crescent branch in El Arish; and that it transfer Egyptian-made religious objects to mosques and churches in the Israel-occupied areas of Sinai.

## Egyptians Take Full Advantage

The Egyptians took full advantage of the occasion to demonstrate their "humane" attitude for the scores of foreign newsmen and television cameras arrayed on both sides of the line. The body return was carried out on the Blooza-Kantara road in the United Nations buffer zone that separates the Israeli and Egyptian limited forces zones east of the Suez Canal. An Egyptian guard of honor, brass band and bugle corps accompanied a motorcade of ten trucks, escorted by military police on red motorcycles.

The drums rolled and bugles blared as Egyptian soldiers serving as pall-bearers--four to a coffin--carried the 39 caskets from the trucks and deposited them in the middle of the road. Israeli officers approached, headed by the Chief Military Chaplain, Gen. Rabbi Mordechai Firon and his deputy, Gen. Rabbi Gad Navon. They draped each coffin with an Israeli flag and pall-bearers carried them to nine waiting trucks.

Afterwards, the Israeli officers exchanged salutes and shook hands with the senior Egyptian officer, Gen. Ayub, Gen. Ensis Siliassvuo, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), who was present, remarked that this was a sad moment that should remind everyone of the need for peace in this region. The returned bodies were taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine for identification before permanent re-burial in Israel.

## BEIGIN; FORD IS A 'GREAT FRIEND' OF ISRAEL; BLAMING ISRAEL FOR BREAKDOWN OF TALKS IS 'UNFAIR JUDGMENT' AND A 'GROSS INJUSTICE'

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA)--Menachem Begin, leader of the Likud opposition, said here today that President Ford is a "great friend" of Israel but claimed that to blame Israel for the breakdown of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's efforts to achieve a second-stage Sinai agree-

ment was an "absolutely unfair judgment" and a "gross injustice." Beigin was questioned by a panel of journalists on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program.

"Negotiations are always possible, we stand for negotiations," Beigin said when asked if he thought the search for a bilateral accord with Egypt could be resumed. But he said that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's demands, if accepted by Israel, would have jeopardized Israel's ability to defend itself.

He observed that no nation has ever relinquished territory taken in war while the state of war was still in effect. Sadat's terms are aimed at the destruction of Israel and his position amounts to offering non-belligerency to a non-existent state, the Likud leader declared.

Beigin said he recognized the "Arab nation" which comprises 20 sovereign states of some 12 million square kilometers, of which the people "who call themselves Palestinians" are part. He said no injustice would be perpetrated if one percent of the Arab people lived under the sovereignty of the Jewish State.

#### No Equation Between PLO, Irgun

He said Arabs living in Israeli territory were entitled to social and cultural autonomy and the right to opt for Israeli citizenship or retain their previous citizenship. But he stressed his position that the land from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River belonged by historic right "to all of the Jewish people" and that no other state can be interposed between those boundaries.

Beigin denied that he had ever foreclosed returning "an inch" of territory to the Arabs and asserted that Israeli-Egyptian borders could be established in Sinai within the framework of a peace settlement. He maintained that Egypt could reach a settlement with Israel independent of the other Arab states.

Beigin denounced as "sacrilege" any equation of the Palestine Liberation Organization with the underground Irgun that he headed during the era of the British Mandate in Palestine. He said the difference was in aims and methods. The Irgun, he said, was building a nation while the PLO, which he branded the "PDO--Palestine Destruction Organization," aims to destroy a people. He said Irgun took great risks to forewarn the British authorities and all civilians before acting while the PLO deliberately "murders children."

Asked why he thought that he, who was born in Poland had more right to live in Palestine than PLO chieftain Yasir Arafat who was born in Jerusalem, Beigin replied, "historically, we (the Jews) were all born in Jerusalem and came back to the land of our forefathers. We built, Arafat tries to destroy." He said that Arabs had a right to live in Palestine but the land belongs to the Jews.

Beigin recalled that when he served as a minister in former Premier Golda Meir's short-lived national coalition government after the 1967 Six-Day War, President Nixon sent a message to Mrs. Meir pledging that the U.S. would not press Israel to return any territory before a final peace treaty is signed. However, Beigin indicated that Nixon's Secretary of State, Kissinger, was in his opinion applying "salami" tactics--stripping territory from Israel slice-by-slice.

#### Certain Of Continued U.S. Support

He said he was not concerned by reported

neo-isolationism in the U.S. and said that whatever the reappraisal by the Ford Administration of its Mideast policy, he was certain that Israel would continue to receive American support and military supplies while the Soviets arm the Arabs. He warned that a cut-off of American military supplies to Israel could result in a miscalculation by the Arabs and lead to a new war. In that event, he predicted the Arabs would suffer a stunning defeat.

Beigin said he was not opposed to reconvening the Geneva conference. "No one will shoot at us in Geneva. They may shout at us," he said, but Israel would "state calmly the justice of its cause, its right to its land and all of its positive proposals." Later today Beigin was scheduled to address the national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America.

#### SHIPMENT OF LANCE MISSILES TO ISRAEL DELAYED IN VIEW OF MIDEAST ASSESSMENT By Joseph Polakoff.

WASHINGTON, April 6 (JTA)--A Pentagon source indicated to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Friday that the U.S. government is refraining from keeping its commitment to ship Lance surface-to-surface missiles systems to Israel in view of President Ford's call for reassessment of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The delay was seen in some quarters here as deliberate U.S. policy of official coldness toward Israel for refusing to accept Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's suggestions for reaching an agreement with Egypt on Israel's surrender of the two passes and oil fields in the Sinai and a form of pressure on Israel to alter its position.

The State Department declined to discuss the projected shipment of the medium-range guided missiles when questioned by JTA. It referred inquiries to the Pentagon. There a spokesman gave the following statement:

#### State Department Statement

"During Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to the United States last fall we agreed to substantial military shipments to Israel. For the most part, these have been completed. They have had a major impact on Israel's defense capability. Our military relationships with Israel always are under study. At the present time these efforts are being integrated into our overall Middle East reassessment. This includes the question of new commitments as well as completion of the arrangements on a few items that have been under discussion in the past.

While the spokesman refused to amplify any of the points in his statement, the JTA learned that the items "under discussion in the past" include the Lance missiles.

#### Allon, Peres Told Not To Come

The State Department also refused to discuss the reports that the U.S. had informed the Israeli government that visits by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Shimon Peres would be premature. It was reported that the U.S. took the position that there would be no purpose in their coming here before the reassessment was completed. The Pentagon, however, confirmed that it asked the Israeli government to delay Peres' visit while the reassessment was underway.

#### CABINET DECIDES TO STAND FIRM ON FURTHER TALKS WITH EGYPT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 6 (JTA)--The Cabinet, meeting in secret session this morning as a ministerial security committee, decided to stand firm on

the positions Israel has taken with regard to a bilateral accord with Egypt in Sinai, despite admittedly worsening relations with Washington and continuing efforts by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to persuade Israel to soften its stand. The ministers were briefed on political and military developments by Foreign Minister Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Shimon Peres but no new decisions were taken, officials said.

According to well placed sources, the government is deeply concerned over the low state of its relations with Washington but it is determined not to shift from the position it held when the second-stage Sinai talks conducted by Kissinger were suspended on March 22.

One source described the present situation as a "war of nerves." The source claimed that Kissinger, in unofficial briefings and statements, is applying psychological and political pressure on Israel to move closer to Egypt's demands. The source conceded that only in that eventuality is Kissinger likely to consider it worth while to try to resume his step-by-step initiative before the Geneva conference is reconvened.

#### Israel's Offers Outlined

Well placed sources said after the Cabinet meeting that Israel's offers--categorically rejected by Egypt--still stand. These are: a full peace treaty under which Israel would return the bulk of the Sinai peninsula to Egypt; a major interim agreement by which Israel would withdraw east of the Sinai passes and from the Abu Rodeis oil fields in return for a formal Egyptian declaration of non-belligerence--restoring as much as half of the peninsula to Egypt; and a more modest proposal whereby Israel would withdraw from the western half of the passes in exchange for less far-reaching political concessions by Cairo.

It was learned here tonight that a "doveish" minority within government policy-making circles still believes that Israel ought to make further compromise proposals. But the "doves" apparently are not in an aggressive mood at present and seem content to follow the majority position in the hope that the crisis with Washington will somehow pass.

#### WARSAW GHETTO MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE; DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 6 (JTA)--As the 32nd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the death of six million Jews in the Holocaust was commemorated today in a solemn ceremony at Temple Emanu-El, speakers urged that the world not be allowed to forget what happened under the Nazis and warned of the dangers of a new Holocaust against Israel and the Jewish people.

Several thousand people were in the Reform Temple and an overflow crowd of several hundred stood outside in cold and windy weather listening to loudspeakers for the annual ceremony sponsored by the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO). Signs around the building said "Remember" in English, Yiddish and Hebrew. The ceremony in New York was one of many being held by Jewish communities throughout the country.

The most poignant moments in the ceremony came during several candle lighting ceremonies. In the first, 30 women survivors of the Holocaust dressed in black and wearing black shawls lighted candles. Later, after 60 New York City school children came in carrying lighted candles, six concentration camp survivors, one of them a

woman born in the Warsaw Ghetto, lit six candles, one for each million dead. Cantor David Kusevitzky sang the El Mole Rachamin. During these occasions many men and women could be seen and heard weeping.

#### Holocaust Could Happen Again

Benjamin Meed, president of WAGRO, set the theme for the ceremony which also marked the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps by American and allied troops, when he noted that 30 years ago the world allowed the Holocaust to happen and it is possible that it would happen again.

Ambassador Jacob Barmore, a member of Israel's United Nations Mission, declared that 30 years after the world had expressed some shame about the murder of Jews, Yasir Arafat, "an assassin of the Jewish people," was applauded at the United Nations. He said Jews have learned that "no one can fight for us" except ourselves. Barmore, who was born in Warsaw, said the survival of Israel is the only guarantee of Jewish survival.

Elite Wiesel, the novelist whose major theme has been the Holocaust, said the Nazis wanted not only to kill the Jews but to blot out their memory. He said one who does not remember is therefore an accomplice to their murders.

Mayor Abraham Beame also declared, "The Jewish people and the Jewish religion are threatened more and more with extinction in various parts of the world." But he asserted, "We will always fight tyranny, always defend the freedom and rights, not only of Jews, but of all people."

Gov. Hugh Carey noted that 30 years ago, as a major in the United States Army, he stood before the gates of Nordhausen and "witnessed the nightmarish horror of the slave labor camps and crematoriums." He said that despite the three decades that have passed since then "we see and hear war mongering and hate against the State of Israel by her surrounding neighbors." But he declared the "lesson of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising is that heroism can stand up against the passions of hatred and survive."

Both Beame and Carey issued proclamations declaring today "Warsaw Ghetto Commemoration Day" in New York City and State.

#### U.S. AID TO ISRAEL SHOULD CONTINUE

TEL AVIV, April 6 (JTA)--Rep. Thomas O'Neill of Massachusetts, the Democratic majority whip in the House, said here today that Israel should continue to receive American aid and that he would vote for it, though he wouldn't say in what amounts and no figures have yet been presented to Congress. O'Neill headed a fact-finding mission of 24 U.S. Congressmen, accompanied by their wives and aides, who spent the past four days touring Israel and meeting with its leaders. They left Ben Gurion Airport for home this afternoon.

O'Neill told reporters that he and his colleagues were convinced that both Israel and Egypt are interested in resuming bilateral talks with the aid of a mediator. He said his group would recommend this when they return to Washington because it would be good for Israel, good for the world and would bring peace nearer if the talks were resumed. The American law-makers arrived in Israel last Thursday, met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin Friday morning and with Defense Minister Shimon Peres before they left today. They visited the Weizmann Institute of Science and toured Galilee and the Golan Heights on Saturday.

