



ALLON CONFIRMS RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN DINITZ AND DOBRYNIN

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Yigal Allon confirmed yesterday that meetings have taken place in Washington recently between Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and the Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin. He said, however, that as of now, there was no visible change in the "well-known" Soviet position on the Middle East. Allon, who made the disclosure at the weekly Cabinet meeting, reminded the ministers that he had informed them in the past about the Dinitz-Dobrynin meetings.

Reports of the unpublicized contacts surfaced in Washington over the weekend after President Ford said, apparently inadvertently on a television interview Friday that the Soviets "have been meeting officially, diplomatically, with representatives from Israel." However, neither Israel nor the Soviet Union confirmed such meetings and Ford's comments seemed to surprise State Department officials. After Ford made the disclosure, it was confirmed by "well placed informants" in Washington.

Reports in Washington over the weekend also claimed that Israeli and Soviet envoys in Bonn and possibly other European capitals had met for secret talks. These reports followed an Israeli newspaper report last month that two Soviet emissaries visited Israel and talked with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other leaders about reconvening the Geneva peace conference. Some Israeli newspapers have also reported that the Russians suggested recently that they would be willing to renew diplomatic ties with Israel following "sufficient progress" toward a Mideast peace settlement without waiting for a final settlement.

Deny Second-Stage Accord Moves

Both Rabin and Allon denied at yesterday's Cabinet session press reports that negotiations had resumed for a second-stage Israeli-Egyptian agreement. They said, however, that Israel was keeping in touch with the U.S. government on "the various possibilities for progress toward peace."

Allon expressed satisfaction over Syria's agreement to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF) for six months and appreciation for the letter signed by 76 U.S. Senators urging President Ford to re-affirm American economic and military support for Israel. He described the letter as a "document of the traditional friendship between Israel and the U.S."

AFULEH BLAST INJURES TWO

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Two persons were slightly injured and a third may have been hurt when an explosive device detonated in the Afuleh vegetable market shortly after 9 a.m. local time today. Police said the device, apparently a hand grenade detonator, was concealed under an abandoned automobile wheel. Police cordoned off the area, set up road blocks and conducted a search for further explosives. Several suspects were detained for questioning.

In addition to the two injured persons, a third person who may have sustained injuries was seen leaving the market without seeking medical attention. Security forces meanwhile have detained four suspected terrorists in the Hebron area who were found in possession of hand grenades. They are believed to have been involved in four bombing incidents in Jerusalem and Hebron between August, 1974 and April, 1975, police said.

2 ISRAELIS, 7 LEBANESE KILLED DURING RAID ON FATAHLAND

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 26 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers and seven Lebanese soldiers were killed yesterday when an Israeli search mission aimed against terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon escalated into a series of sharp fire-fights with terrorists and Lebanese regulars. Israeli Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur said on a television interview last night that such operations would continue but expressed regret that Lebanese soldiers were involved.

Israel Air Force jets and two Israeli rescue teams, one of them in armored half-tracks, and the intervention of United Nations truce observers were required to extricate the original Israeli raiding party that was pinned down on a hill just inside the Lebanese border. It was the first time in six months that the Israeli Air Force was called to action over Lebanon.

Israeli Dead Identified

The Israeli dead were identified today as Lt. Moshe Whartman, 22 of Jerusalem, leader of the original terrorist-hunting patrol, and Cpl. Natan Schoenberg, 20, of Tel Aviv. Lt. Whartman was the oldest son of Eliezer Whartman, the well-known columnist whose articles appear regularly in many American-Jewish weeklies.

The fighting took place in and around Eit-A'Shaab village, a suspected terrorist base about five kilometers east of the Israeli village of Zarit. The Cabinet, meeting in its regular weekly session Sunday, was continuously brief on developments. The action ended at about 2 p.m. local time yesterday, with the evacuation of all Israeli forces from Lebanon.

It had begun late Saturday night as part of an ongoing, almost routine operation against growing terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon. The Israeli search unit crossed the border after a night of fire exchanges with terrorists based inside Lebanon.

Gur said that the army had received information of possible terrorist incursions against Israel by land and sea from Lebanon and its mission was to prevent such attacks. He said Israel's policy was to strike only at the terrorists and not to engage Lebanese regular forces, but Lebanese soldiers were mingled with the terrorists and some were in civilian dress. "Therefore, the Israeli force acted properly when it attacked," Gur said.

Background of Israeli Foray

The action took place against the background

of renewed serious fighting between Palestinians and right-wing Lebanese Falangists in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon which threatens to plunge that country into a civil war.

Gur said, however, that the internal tensions in Lebanon did not prevent the terrorists from planning and carrying out assaults against Israel from Lebanese territory. He said the Lebanese were not always capable of restraining the terrorists but, on the other hand, sometimes did not even do what they were capable of, "thereby forcing Israel to take preventive measures."

Ran Into Unexpected Resistance

Unlike previous operations of its kind, the Israelis ran into unexpected resistance Saturday night and early Sunday. The unit was attacked at close range by terrorists outside of Eit A Shaab and came under fire from inside the village when it attempted to withdraw toward the Israeli border.

Israeli soldiers attacked a house in Eit A Shaab with small arms and grenades, killing seven Lebanese soldiers who had been firing at them. The clash delayed the withdrawal until dawn and the commander of the unit decided to take cover on a hill rather than attempt to return to Israeli territory in daylight, a military spokesman explained yesterday.

But the unit lost radio contact with field headquarters in Israel. A rescue team sent across the border was unable to locate the original patrol and came under small arms fire from a Lebanese army post. A second rescue squad was dispatched in armored half-tracks. UN truce observers were informed of the nature of the rescue mission and one UN officer accompanied the Israelis into Eit A Shaab to explain to the Lebanese that it was a rescue mission, not an attack.

The Lebanese army did not interfere, but the unit came under attack by mortar and machine-gun fire at which point the Air Force was called in to silence the sources of fire, the military spokesman said. The original Israeli unit was located at noon and by early afternoon Sunday all Israeli units had returned to their bases.

W.H.O. ASSEMBLY VOTES 63-5 TO CONDEMN ISRAEL; 5 NATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., OPPOSE MEASURE

GENEVA, May 26 (JTA) -- World Health Organization assembly delegates voted 63-5 with 25 abstentions, to condemn Israel's treatment of the inhabitants of administered territories. Only the United States, Uruguay, Bolivia and Costa Rica joined Israel in opposing the motion. The resolution last Friday put the 146-nation body on record as being "deeply alarmed by the deterioration of health and living conditions of the Palestinian refugees."

Israel's representative denied the accusations, which he said were based on political and not humanitarian grounds. He said health conditions had improved in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and Sinai under Israeli administration. The resolution, sponsored by Arab and non-aligned countries, voted in favor of allocating funds to improve conditions in those areas.

Last Wednesday, six senators and 45 representatives sent to the WHO a telegram warning that a strong move against Israel might lead to a loss of Congressional support for the organization.

SCALI WARNS ABOUT UN SITUATION

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- John Scali, the

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that "a cabal of Communist and Third World nations are cooking up a scheme to boot Israel out of the United Nations." He warned that if "the plotters" fail to expel Israel, they may try to oust her from the General Assembly where the Communists and their non-aligned allies have the votes to impose "their capricious will."

Should this occur, Scali suggested that the U.S. abstain from General Assembly proceedings. He predicted that the U.S. would veto any expulsion measure in the Security Council and that Britain and France would do likewise. Scali, who is due to be succeeded in his post by Daniel Moynihan, asserted that American public opinion, "would virtually command some kind of retaliatory action" if Israel was suspended. He added that any attempt to suspend Israel would be "an extremely reckless move."

Congress has already suspended its contributions to UNESCO and is delaying its \$30 million contribution to the World Health Organization in view of the anti-Israel moves in those two bodies. The move to try to oust Israel from the UN was prepared last month by a Third World committee meeting in Havana.

SADAT SAYS PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIANS AT GENEVA IS A CONDITION FOR NEW TALKS

VIENNA, May 26 (JTA) -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt said today that Egypt raises no conditions for a new round of the Geneva peace talks except the participation of the Palestinians. In an exclusive interview with the Austrian radio, Sadat said "The Palestinians must take part because we will have to work out a lasting peace for the Middle East in Geneva. There is no lasting solution possible without the participation of the Palestinians," Sadat declared. "The key question is not Sinai or the Golan Heights but the Palestinians."

Sadat said the superpowers are responsible for a success of the Geneva talks. "But the trump cards are in the hands of the Americans, because they provide Israel with everything -- with bread, butter, and guns." In case of a failure of the Geneva talks a very dangerous situation would be created, Sadat said. "I fight for peace, but if there is no peaceful solution possible we will not be afraid of a fifth Middle East war."

Sadat said he was looking forward to his summit meeting with President Ford in Salzburg next week. "It will be very important to discuss the Middle East situation with the President after the failure of the peace mission of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger," he said. At the same time he stated he would not object to a new Middle East mission by Kissinger "in the context of a dimension of peace."

In his interview, Sadat also said Egypt would welcome an expansion of the participating parties at the Geneva peace talks in order to prevent "a polarization of the super powers." He stated that, "It is my opinion that this is the time Europe could do more to reach a solution of the Middle East problem." Sadat added that he would welcome the participation of more European politicians at Geneva such as Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. "I'm very happy to meet my friend Kreisky in Vienna," Sadat said.

TEKOAH CALLS ON U.S. JEWRY TO STAND FIRMLY BEHIND ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoah, called on American Jewry tonight for "an unremitting display of Jewish strength on the side of Israel" even though, in its struggle for peace, Israel may find the "need to adopt positions or take steps which do not find favor with others."

The Israeli envoy was the principal speaker at the opening of a two-day national leadership assembly convened by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the first of its kind since the Yom Kippur War. The gathering, at the Delmonico Hotel, is being attended by 300 delegates from all parts of the country representing the Conference's 32 constituent organizations.

Tekoah's speech was his valedictory address to leaders of the American Jewish community. He will retire next month as Israel's Permanent Representative to the UN to assume the presidency of Ben Gurion University in Beer-sheba.

In his remarks, Tekoah stressed that the futures of American Jewry and Israel "are irrevocably interlocked," that "you are concerned with our destiny, our development and our security" and "we have a paramount interest in your well-being, your vigor, and your ability to shape the course of events." He said that "Israel has always tried to pursue its diplomatic struggle with tactical sensitivity" but it "could never forego, however, Jewry's expressions of support and solidarity" which "remain crucial at all times and under all circumstances."

Israel Needs Much More Support

The Israeli diplomat emphasized that "Israel is in need of such support more than ever before" because "we are entering a period in which the power of Arab oil will be offset primarily by the understanding and backing of enlightened public opinion." He predicted that, with the search for alternative sources of energy, in a decade or two "the oil stranglehold will have become a thing of the past. The problem is, therefore, to pull through the vicissitudes and threats confronting us right now," he said.

Tekoah warned that "there is sometimes a temptation to look at the Middle East situation in the light of considerations of the hour," observing that "this is the precarious way. It might lead to attributing to the conclusion of an agreement greater in import than its content and its viability. It might result in more meaning being attached to a tactical smile by an Arab leader than to his government's fundamental attitude."

He pictured Israel's desire for peace as "unquestionable" while "on the other hand there are Arab governments some of which continue to reject a pacific settlement with Israel while others pay lip service to the concept of peace. Even the less extreme of the Arab governments support the PLO with its Nazi attitude toward the Jewish State and the Jewish people. Even the allegedly moderate Arab leaders demand the restitution of the so-called inalienable rights of the Palestinians -- a euphemism for replacing Israel by a Palestinian Arab state with a Jewish minority."

Tekoah said that "Under these conditions, the Arab call for even-handedness toward Israel and the Arab states must be seen for what

it is -- a demand to treat on an equal footing Israel's unrelenting search for peace and Arab policy that is still keeping the Middle East in a state of war after 27 years of conflict."

Israel's Survival Not In Doubt

He said that "Israel's survival is not in doubt...the problem is whether Israel's strength will be maintained at a level that will give it security, deter Arab aggression and enable Israel to attain peace with its neighbors, including the establishment of defensible boundaries, a prerequisite for durable peace."

Tekoah reiterated his government's readiness to exchange territory for concrete political commitments to peace. He said that Israel would seek a solution for the needs of Palestinian Arabs within the framework of comprehensive peace negotiations but "will not undermine the peace prospects by any contact with a murder organization which is not representative of the Palestinians" and "denies the Jewish people's right to self-determination and independence."

Hopeful Atmosphere Noted

"Tekoah said that "recent events such as the letter of support for Israel addressed by 76 Senators to President Ford and Syria's agreement to renew the mandate of the United Nations forces for another six months contribute to a more hopeful atmosphere for the pursuance of diplomatic efforts."

"However, he said their success depended on several factors including the outcome of the American reassessment of Middle East policy, the continued rejection by the superpowers of attempts to impose a solution and the realization by the Arab states, particularly Egypt, that they must take concrete steps toward peace paralleling their demands for additional Israeli withdrawals.

JTA INTERN PROGRAM BEGUN

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Summer Intern Program began again this month for its fourth consecutive year, it was announced today by William M. Landau, JTA president. This year there are three interns -- two in the JTA's New York office and one in the Washington bureau. The 10-week program provides the trainees with an opportunity to cover and write about breaking and on-going news events, conduct interviews with prominent Jewish leaders, rewrite wire copy, and attend and write about communal activities and meetings.

Sheryl Anne Gura, interning in the New York JTA office, is a former writer and research assistant for the Associated Press, a writer for the Israeli Consulate in New York, and a writer for the Volunteer Office of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Mindy J. Yochelson, also in the New York office, wrote articles for the Syracuse University newspaper, "Daily Orange," for the university's Hillel newspaper, "Sage," and was a newscaster and writer for university radio station WAER-FM.

Debra Samuelson, interning in Washington, was a reporter and then editor of the University of Miami newspaper, "Miami Hurricane," which won the All-American Award from the American Collegiate Press and the Sigma Chi Delta as best collegiate newspaper during her tenure. She was also editor of "Diaspora" magazine, published by the Hillel Jewish Student Center at the University of Miami, and wrote wire copy for CBS-News during the 1972 presidential campaign.

\$35M WORLD BANK LOAN TO ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- The World Bank announced last Friday it had approved a loan of \$35 million to Israel to help finance private industrial projects which are either export-oriented or located in Israel's less developed areas.

Of the total amount to be loaned, \$25 million will go to the industrial development Bank of Israel, Israel's most important development finance institution, to meet part of its foreign exchange requirements for industrial projects of its sub-borrowers. Five million dollars will be allocated to industrial research and development to help Israel make effective use of "its highly qualified manpower and develop an indigenous industrial technology," the World Bank said.

This is the first assistance of this kind to be provided by the bank to a member country. Under the program, the office of the chief scientist in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will carry out technological, financial and commercial appraisal of research and development proposals and supervise their implementation. The loan funds will help finance imported equipment and materials, and the services of consultants.

The remaining five million of the World Bank loan, the bank statement said, will help finance the expansion of training facilities and programs to provide some 760 more student places in three technical engineering institutions and 850 additional student places in four vocational training centers.

According to the World Bank statement, the loan to Israel will bear interest at eight-and-one-half percent per annum. Three previous bank loans totaling \$60 million have helped Israel carry out a variety of projects in support of the country's industrial growth, the World Bank said.

URGE 'JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK' IN NEW YORK'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, May 26 (JTA) -- Bronx Borough President Robert Abrams proposed today that the Board of Education formally designate a "Jewish Heritage Week" during the school year "in order to promote awareness and appreciation of the significant contributions that the Jewish population has made to the development of our City, State and nation."

In a letter to Board President James F. Regan Abrams noted that the school calendar currently recognizes such commemorative dates as Puerto Rico Discovery Day, Greek Independence Day, Afro-American History Week, Italian Independence Day and others.

Abrams stated: "New York's Jewish citizens are proud of the contributions they have made in such diverse fields as science, the arts, the professions and government. Through thousands of years of oppression and persecution, Jews have persevered and their courageous struggle for survival could be an inspiration to all the children in our public school system."

The Bronx official added that a Jewish Heritage Week "would contribute enormously to building an atmosphere of respect in our schools for the traditions and cultures of all people within our pluralistic society in the United States of America." Abrams further suggested that the week of April 28 could be designated as "Jewish

Heritage Week" to commemorate the twin anniversaries of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, "one of the most tragic periods in the history of the Jewish people" and the Birth of Israel.

CREDIT AUTHORIZATION FOR ISRAEL REQUESTED BY FIVE SENATORS

WASHINGTON, May 26 (JTA) -- A bi-partisan group of five Senators have introduced legislation to renew Congressional authorization to the President to grant credits to Israel to buy U.S. military equipment during the two-year period starting next January 1 to assure Israel adequate defense.

The current legislation, first introduced by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash) in 1970, is designed to enable the President to extend credits to Israel should foreign measures, that normally carry such authorizations, become bogged down in the legislative process. The foreign aid bill for the new fiscal year starting July 1 has not yet even been presented to the Congress by the State Department.

The proposal is legislatively known as Section 501 of the Defense Procurement Bill of 1971 which is the basic law for the standby authorization powers granted the President.

It is described as an open-ended credit for the President to transfer to Israel by sale, credit sale or guarantee such aircraft and equipment as may be necessary to counteract any past, present or future increased military assistance provided to other countries of the Middle East. Any sale credit or guarantee shall be made on terms and conditions not less favorable than those extended to other countries which receive some or similar types of aircraft and equipment. The renewal authority does not carry any specific sum.

Senators Jackson, Hubert Humphrey (D. Minn), Clifford Case (R. NJ), James Buckley (C.-R. NY), and Harrison Williams (D. NJ) co-sponsored the renewal measure last Thursday.

TZUR SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS

TEL AVIV, May 26 (JTA) -- Michael Tzur, former managing director of the Israel Corporation and former chairman of Zim Israel Navigation, was sentenced Friday to 15 years in jail. He had pleaded guilty earlier this month to 14 counts of larceny, bribery, theft, embezzlement, betrayal of confidence and mishandling of public funds in a case with international repercussions.

Tzur, 52, is the highest ranking Israeli public official to be charged with such offenses and to be sentenced to such a long term. Previous cases involving high-ranking civil servants involved security offenses, such as that of Prof. Ysrael Baer, an aid of former Premier David Ben-Gurion, who had been convicted of espionage in the 1950s.

The Tel Aviv district court ordered several years imprisonment on each of the 14 counts, totalling 79 years in prison. But some of the charges overlap so that the total number of years to which Tzur was sentenced is 15. A third of such prison terms is usually deducted for "good behavior." The court, in passing sentence, called Tzur's activities a show of disregard for the law. The court said Tzur's motivation was not financial problems but rather a drive to enlarge his fortunes. Tzur's defense attorneys indicated they were considering an appeal to the Supreme Court for a milder sentence.