



# daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10036

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Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Wednesday, May 28, 1975

No. 102

## PERES; NEW ARAB STRATEGY IS TO DRAIN ISRAEL'S MILITARY STRENGTH IN A SERIES OF MINI-WARS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Defense Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday that the new Arab strategy is aimed at a piecemeal draining of Israel's military strength in a series of mini-wars along the borders rather than a full-scale final assault and that they were conducting it on the basis of massive arms acquisitions from both the West and the Soviet Union and their overwhelming numerical strength in manpower.

Addressing the annual convention of the Israel Journalists Association in Tel Aviv, Peres observed that the Arab countries are undergoing important military, political and economic changes which demanded an Israeli reassessment of the general Middle East situation.

He also contended that "there is a gap between what the Soviet power in the Middle East is believed to be and its real power. Obviously, from Israel's standpoint, the USSR is a real problem," Peres said, "but from a global point of view, the USSR's achievements in the area are insignificant and its military power in the area is a subject for serious doubts." Accordingly, Peres said, it is not the U.S. but the Soviet Union that should be reassessing its Middle East policy at this time.

Peres warned against the continuing strengthening of the Arab armies and the deterioration of Israel into a defenseless state. He said that while the administered territories may not serve as a deterrent to a new war, their loss could lead to a situation in which Israel will have no deterrence whatsoever and will be a tempting target for the Arabs to break its back.

## Threat Of Palestinian State

A Palestinian state with borders some 10 miles from Israel's coast would be a daily threat to Israel's narrow waist, he said. "I can understand those who say they do not want to govern another million Arabs, but we certainly do not want to be governed by others," Peres said.

He predicted that Israel would be able to maintain a reasonable balance of military power in the Middle East in the future although the numerical odds during the coming decade will probably remain steady at three to one in the Arabs' favor.

"The Arabs have reached the conclusion that it would be best for them to exploit their one indisputable advantage--their numerical superiority--by increasing the number of countries involved directly against Israel, by mobilizing large numbers of soldiers and accumulating vast quantities of arms in the hope that their quantitative superiority would eventually overcome Israel's qualitative edge," Peres said.

In that connection, Peres said, the Syrians are trying to form a new coalition to include Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and the PLO which could concentrate 14 divisions. Despite the potential weakness of such a coalition, it could serve to counter-balance Egypt and would strengthen the more belligerent elements in the Arab world, he said.

## ISRAELI ARAB INTELLECTUALS TO HOLD 'MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE'

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--With or without an interim agreement, Israelis and Arabs will meet next month in Geneva for a "Mideast peace conference." This will not be the much-talked-of peace conference directed at solving the conflict, but a more modest one between intellectuals of both sides that will discuss "mediation techniques with special emphasis on the Mideastern experience."

Among the Israeli participants at the conference, organized by the International Peace Academy, will be Prof. Moshe Maoz, of the Hebrew University; Prof. Shimon Shamir, of Tel Aviv University; Simcha Flapan, the left-wing journalist and editor of "New Outlook"; Ibrahim Shebat, the Arab editor of Mapam's "Al Mersad"; and probably Dr. Saul Friedlander of the Hebrew University, who is now in Geneva.

Egypt is to be represented by three top journalists including the editor of its leading daily Al Ahram, Ihsan Abdul Kuddus. Palestine Liberation Organization-affiliated intellectuals are also expected at the meeting.

## ISRAEL COLD TO SENGHOR MEDIATION BID

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Official sources here have poured cold water on Senegal's President Leopold Senghor's apparent interest in playing the role of mediator in the Mideast conflict. These sources said they questioned Senghor's objectivity and neutrality--in view of the fact that his country had broken its diplomatic ties with Israel during the Yom Kippur War and has done nothing to renew them. The sources said there have been no direct contacts between Senghor and Israel.

According to reports from the U.S., Senghor met Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, in Paris recently, and today Senghor met with several leaders of American Jewish organizations in New York. (There was no immediate comment from the Jewish leaders as to the nature of the meeting. A spokesman said that a statement may be forthcoming tomorrow.)

The official sources here stressed that contacts with diaspora Jewish leaders could not be a substitute for normal diplomatic relations with Israel. To effectively mediate, the sources added, a mediator needs good relations with both parties to the conflict.

## ISRAELI LABOR ALIGNMENT ELEMENTS SAY NO FURTHER TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WITHOUT FURTHER ARAB COMMITMENTS TO NON-BELLIGERENCY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin, evidently buoyed by what he said was an overall improvement in Israel's political position in recent weeks, lined up tonight with the "hawkish" elements of his Labor Alignment who support the government's refusal to offer further territorial concessions without commensurate Arab commitments to non-belligerency.

In a speech that marked the end of a three-week marathon debate between "hawks" and "doves" in the Labor Alignment's leadership and Knesset faction, Rabin vigorously defended his government's

refusal to come forth unilaterally at this time with a definitive overall peace plan, including maps delineating Israel's future borders.

Such a move by Israel had been urged by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, veteran Mapam leaders Meir Talmi and Yaacob Hazan, and others who maintained that it was up to Israel to take the initiative to break the present negotiations impasse, especially in light of its strained relations with the United States.

But Rabin asserted flatly that Israel would never return to its pre-June 1967 borders and warned that if his government drafted a precise peace program at this time, what Israel offered as its maximal concessions would be taken by the Arabs as nothing more than an initial bargaining position that could be whittled down.

#### Broad Outline Of Future Frontiers

Rabin, who will have his fateful summit meeting with President Ford in Washington a little more than two weeks from now, drew no maps but in effect presented a broad outline of future frontiers from which he indicated that Israel will never retreat. He said that Israel would insist on a permanent presence in Sinai of a yet undetermined depth but which must include a land link to Sharm el-Sheikh at the southeastern tip of the peninsula.

Rabin pledged that Israel would never "descend" from the Golan Heights. Though he did not specify to what depth Israel would remain on the Heights, he indicated that the future boundaries would be determined by existing Israeli settlements on the Golan. "We did not set up the settlements there in order to take them down again," Rabin told the Alignment members.

He said that on the West Bank, Israel had proposed a settlement based roughly on the so-called Allon plan, drafted by the present Foreign Minister Yigal Allon shortly after the 1967 Six-Day War, which envisioned retention of a strip along the Jordan River and autonomy for the Arab populated regions of the West Bank. He said that proposal and alternative "functional" arrangements were all rejected by Jordan.

#### Standing Up To Pressure

Analyzing events that followed the collapse of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's efforts to promote an Israeli-Egyptian second-stage agreement in Sinai last March, Rabin said Israel had achieved a major success by demonstrating that it could stand up to pressure. He said the Arabs should have learned a lesson from this.

The Premier rejected the "fears and dark prophecies of some soothsayers" and declared that Israel's political position had improved of late. He was referring apparently to last week's letter from 76 Senators urging Ford to reaffirm America's commitment to economic and military support for Israel and Israel's new trade agreement with the European Common Market which was concluded despite bitter protests and threats from the Arab states.

Observers believe Rabin feels that, armed with the strong statement of support from an overwhelming majority of U.S. Senators, he can meet with Ford in a position to withstand Administration pressure for concessions by Israel. He is said to believe that the Administration will be more circumspect in applying pressure on Israel in view of Congressional sentiment. Consequently, observers say, Rabin will offer no new "ideas" prior to Ford's meeting with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Salzburg, Austria this weekend, and that the next move toward renewed

negotiations will have to come from Egypt.

#### Split Between 'Hawks' And 'Doves'

Nevertheless, it was clear after the debate, that Israel's governing Labor Alignment is fairly evenly split between "hawks" and "doves." During the course of the debate, 14 Labor and Mapam leaders spoke out for large-scale territorial withdrawals and an overall peace plan. Sixteen ministers and Knesset members spoke in defense of the government's position.

One government spokesman, Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Barlev, a former army Chief of Staff, said today that the differences over the Golan Heights and Sinai were mere "nuances." The main division within the Alignment, he said, was over the West Bank and Israel's future eastern borders. He said that he himself backed the view that the Jordan River must remain Israel's security frontier, policed by Israeli forces.

Barlev said that subject to this condition, arrangements should be made to ensure that the large bulk of the West Bank's Arab population remains outside of the Jewish State. Barlev stressed that no Arab state was prepared to consider anything less than total withdrawal and for that reason Israel has no cause to draft its peace plan now. "The day for Israel to take decisions is the morning after the first Arab leader says he agrees to territorial compromise," Barlev said.

#### KATYUSHA ROCKETS FIRED AT SAFAD, AVIVIM AND NAHARIYA

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Katyusha rockets were fired at three civilian centers in northern Israel last night and early this morning without causing damage or casualties. A volley of rockets exploded in Safad in Upper Galilee shortly after 10 p.m. local time last night and another volley hit Moshav Avivim near the Lebanese border at about 11:30 p.m. The Mediterranean coastal town of Nahariya was the target of rockets fired at 2:30 a.m. today.

Security sources said the rockets were an improved version of the Soviet-made Katyusha, with a 122 mm. diameter and a range of 10 miles and may have been fired from moving vehicles. Military circles believe last night's attacks which were the first against Israeli civilian centers in some time, were intended to provoke Israeli military action along the Lebanese border leading to new clashes with Lebanese army regulars. Two Israeli and seven Lebanese soldiers were killed in fighting across the Lebanese border Saturday night and Sunday morning.

According to Israeli circles, the pitting of Israel against Lebanese forces suits the terrorists' strategy at a time when a near civil war is raging in Beirut between Palestinians and right-wing Lebanese Falangists. (Lebanon's military Cabinet resigned yesterday after three days of fighting that threw that country into turmoil.)

#### BAYH SAYS U.S. ON NOTICE THAT CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL CONTINUES UNDIMINISHED

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--Sen. Birch Bayh (D, Ind.) said today that the letter to President Ford, signed by 76 Senators last week, "put the Administration on notice that Congressional support for Israel is undiminished." He also said that Israel had nothing to fear from the Ford Administration's current reassessment of Middle East policy because, "if it is nothing more than a high-handed scare tactic...then it will surely backfire" but if it "is truly a review of our options, then I am convinced that, once having undergone the rigors of

re-examination, our commitment to Israel independence will emerge strengthened."

Bayh, who was one of the signatories to the letter, addressed 300 delegates attending the two-day national leadership assembly convened by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the Delmonico Hotel here.

Another speaker, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Arthur J. Goldberg, analyzed in detail Security Council Resolution 242, which he helped draft in 1967 and concluded that it still provided the guidelines for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict achievable at Geneva.

#### Concern Over Reassessment

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Presidents Conference, opened the leadership assembly last night with expressions of concern over the reassessment and certain recent American actions in the Middle East. He said it was "difficult for American Jews to understand the U.S. commitment to Jordan for the supply of Hawk missiles, while Israel's requests for commitments for the weaponry it requires is deferred because of the 'reassessment.' Is it then only a reassessment for Israel or a reassessment which encompasses the entire area?" Rabbi Miller asked. "The words are not reassuring when the deeds lead us to queries of this nature," he added.

Rabbi Miller also asserted that "Our country must not give in to Arab blackmail, whether it is saber-rattling, threats of oil embargoes or petro-dollar muscle-flexing. Support of Israel is a major weapon in the U.S. arsenal in implementing policies that will enable the world to have stable economic growth in a situation of non-confrontation," he said.

Bayh said he welcomed the U.S. reassessment in the Middle East because, if an honest one, it will demonstrate to the American public that support for Israel "bears no relationship to a Vietnam policy that required more than two-and-one-half million Americans to face the horrors of war."

He said he was "confident that Congress will assert itself in the course of the debate to reaffirm its commitment to a strong and independent Israel....I believe that our efforts have put the Administration on notice that our support for Israel is undiminished; that we believe in a secure Israel as the best guarantee against aggression; that the foreign aid bill cannot be used as leverage to force Israel to compromise its own security."

#### Resolution 242 Still Valid

Goldberg told the delegates that "despite the passage of time since the adoption of Resolution 242 and the recent war, and perhaps because of these events, I adhere to the view that the resolution does provide the basis to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement between the parties, provided they will come to share the will and courage to achieve a just and lasting peace which is the goal of the resolution."

#### U.S. REASSESSMENT OF MIDEAST NOT YET NEAR CONCLUSION

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 27 (JTA)--The White House and the State Department made it clear today that the Ford Administration's reassessment of Middle East policy is ongoing and not

yet near a conclusion. Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen told reporters that President Ford's statement Friday that the U.S. approved Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East "stands."

Questioned about Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's remarks Saturday that the Administration would have to seek a definition of what is meant by secure, recognized borders for Israel as stated in Resolution 242, Nessen referred reporters to the State Department.

Kissinger made his remarks with respect to the letter to Ford last week signed by 76 Senators urging the President to reaffirm American military and economic support for Israel and stand by the principle of secure, defensible borders for that country. Kissinger observed that the matter of borders was one of the "ambiguities" in Resolution 242 and that the Administration would seek a definition in consultation with Congress, especially the Senate.

#### Mum On Resolution 242 Definition

State Department sources declined to comment on Kissinger's statement or why, nearly eight years after the adoption of Resolution 242, the Secretary of State finds it necessary to look for a definition of its contents.

Asked what happened to the Rogers Plan, the State Department sources would say only that the reassessment of Middle East policy is continuing. The Rogers Plan, enunciated in December, 1969 by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers, envisioned a Middle East settlement based on Israel's return to its pre-June, 1967 borders with only minor boundary changes. It was taken to represent the U.S. interpretation of Resolution 242 with regard to secure boundaries for Israel.

Ford and Kissinger both said over the weekend that the U.S. would present its own Middle East peace plan after the President's meetings next month with President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Premier Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. Kissinger stressed that this would be done only if the President failed to bring Israel and Egypt closer and that the U.S. would not impose any solution. Any settlement has to be worked out by the Arabs and Israelis through direct or indirect negotiations, he said.

Ford, who was interviewed Friday by five European correspondents, was asked how he could have taken two months reassessing American Middle East policy and then go into his meeting with Sadat in Salzburg, Austria June 1-2 "with no new policy." The President replied that his talks with Sadat "is a very understandable part of the (reassessment) process."

"I want to get first hand from him (Sadat) his analysis, his recommendations" toward "a peaceful solution," Ford said. He then noted he would meet Rabin in Washington June 11-12 "where I will have the same intimate relationship" and then "sometime shortly afterwards we will lay out what we think is the best solution." Ford's televised interview with the European correspondents was to lay the groundwork for his trip to the meetings of the heads of state of NATO members in Brussels Wednesday and his subsequent visits to Italy, Spain and Austria. \*\*\*

UNITED NATIONS (JTA)--The Security Council is scheduled to adopt a resolution Wednesday extending the mandate for the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force on the Golan Heights for another six months. A draft resolution was circulated here Tuesday. The current mandate expires May 31.

# ZIONIST ACTION AND DEVELOPMENT JEWISH AGENCY PREPARES FOR A 'WORKING ASSEMBLY' NEXT MONTH

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--The fourth annual assembly of the reconstituted Jewish Agency which opens in Jerusalem June 16, will be "a working assembly." In the words of Agency Director General Moshe Rivlin: The 300 delegates and 100-plus observers and guests will steep themselves in the issues and problems facing the Agency in the coming year, in its budgetary problems and in the long-range plans to be submitted to the assembly by several of the Agency's departments.

The assembly will be convening just after another crucial "working meeting"--between President Ford and Premier Yitzhak Rabin in Washington. By any assessment, mid-June will be a fateful period for Israel, and Rivlin therefore sees the assembly in another role too: as a ringing acclamation of world Jewry's support for and identity with Israel.

Rabin will return to Israel during the assembly and will appear before it to deliver a firsthand account of his talks in Washington. His audience will include representatives of every major Jewish community in the free world, Rivlin stressed in his interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The assembly will provide an unparalleled opportunity for a show of diaspora solidarity with Israel.

(The Jewish Agency assembly's formal composition is 150 delegates representing the fund-raising organizations and the same number of Zionist representatives.)

One of its chief functions will be to approve the Agency's 1975-76 budget. At present, the Agency is operating under a budget approved for the three months April-June by its Board of Governors. Expenditure, of course, depends on income, and Rivlin said he is confident that this year's cash income from the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal will exceed that of 1974-75.

## Key Issues At Assembly

The problems facing fund-raisers--especially in this period of world economic recession--will be examined in depth in the assembly's fund-raising committee under chairman Paul Zucker (of the U.S.) and co-chairman Michael Saeger (of England). The committee includes delegates of the large and the small communities and is a forum for what Rivlin termed "our kind of international cooperation": pooling and sharing of experiences and ideas.

Aliya and absorption will be a key theme at the assembly, with delegates discussing frankly the current low in aliya, the worrisome drop-out rate among Soviet emigres, complaints among newcomers to Israel, ways to improve absorption techniques in Israel--especially in the crucial area of social absorption. Agency officials will report on the many facets of the Agency's social activities inside Israel aimed at "narrowing the gap" between rich and poor, deprived and established sections of the population.

## Areas Of Activities

Rivlin listed these areas of the Agency work with pride: building and running kindergartens, especially in development areas; building day nurseries; building secondary schools, especially in development areas; funding scholarships for secondary school pupils (the school-building and

scholarship funds are directed through the UJA's Israel Education Fund, which, Rivlin said, "has changed the educational map in many areas of the country.")

Still in education--the Agency covers a major part of the budgets of the country's universities, and the assembly will be examining this considerable effort. Youth Aliya's program of admitting local deprived children into its residential schools has had major success: 5000 of Youth Aliya's 13,000 wards are now local children. The Youth and Halutz Department has been responsible for providing clubs, summer camps and other activities--again with the stress on development towns.

Rivlin said the assembly delegates will tour towns like Kiryat Shmona to see and feel for themselves the effect of the Agency's various projects to help the people there. (Amigur, the Agency's housing firm, has expanded or renovated over 40,000 dwellings, mostly in these development towns and in the poorer quarters of the large cities.)

The Settlement Department will lay out its plans before the assembly for new Jewish settlements in the Galilee, planned as industrial rather than purely agricultural villages. The plans for two industrial centers, Segev and Tefen, are already well advanced. There are detailed plans, too, for establishing several new settlements in the Arava, where the existing kibbutzim and moshavim have proved themselves thoroughly profitable in high-price export crops, some grown under glass and with Israeli-developed irrigation techniques.

For Agency Chairman Pinhas Sapir, who was elected at last year's assembly, this will be his first assembly in the chair--alongside Board of Governors Chairman Max Fisher of Detroit. Among the Israeli leaders to address the assembly will be President Ephraim Katzir, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Treasury Secretary Yehoshua Rabinowitz. One evening will be devoted to marking the 30th anniversary of the end of World War II--with a session at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Institute addressed by Golda Meir and Gideon Hausner.

## DALLAS JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION TO AID REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

DALLAS, May 27 (JTA)--The board of directors of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Dallas agreed last week to assist in the resettlement of 10,000 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees. The Dallas Federation joined other U.S. Jewish welfare groups in the resettlement effort initiated by the United HIAS Service. The Dallas board of directors has asked its Federation's Executive Committee to implement any details involved in the project, including the number of refugees to be resettled in Dallas. The federal government and public welfare funds are expected to pay for the resettlement costs.

## BOMBING INCIDENTS IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, May 27 (JTA)--Police are investigating bomb blasts that damaged a synagogue and a Jewish school in a Buenos Aires suburb last night without causing any injuries. The bombings followed an incendiary bomb attack last Thursday on a downtown Buenos Aires movie house screening the new Argentine film, "Los Gauchos Judios" (The Jewish Gauchos.) The film, based on the classic novel by the late Alberto Gerchunoff, was shot at Campo de Mayo, a major military garrison, with the army's cooperation. Last January, extremists bombed the site, destroying scenery and technical equipment. No injuries were sustained because the bombing took place at night when the set was empty.