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ISRAEL SETS EARLY TEST OF RIGHT OF PASSAGE OF CARGO IN REOPENED CANAL By Yitzhak Shargil and Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA)--Transportation Minister Gad Yaacobi indicated today that Israel is about to test the right of passage for its cargoes through the Suez Canal. The test may come within the next few days according to the Minister who confirmed on a radio interview that a Liberian vessel carrying 12,000 tons of sugar for Israel will attempt to pass through the waterway which the Egyptians officially reopened today. Yaacobi and other Israeli leaders have repeatedly stressed in recent days that passage for Israeli cargoes through the canal was an understanding of the January 1974 Israeli-Egyptian disengagement accord.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin said on a television interview yesterday that if Cairo refuses to allow Israeli cargoes through the canal, Israel will bring the matter up at the next stage of political negotiations.

Israeli maritime circles said this morning that the Liberian-flag ship Truxet Airens was en route to Gaza with 12,000 tons of sugar from South Korea consigned to Israel and the administered territories. They said that the ship, which apparently has been underway for some time, was originally scheduled to discharge its cargo at Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat but was subsequently ordered to Gaza on the Mediterranean. It was due to arrive there June 17 but the date has since been advanced to June 10, indicating that the vessel was making for the Suez Canal rather than taking the long route around Africa and through the Straits of Gibraltar.

Yaacobi said today, "I hope very much the cargo (of sugar) will go through. It will be a very sweet cargo for our relations with Egypt for the future." He said that Egypt's commitment to allow Israeli cargoes through the Suez Canal was not written into the disengagement accords but was conveyed in writing to the United States by Egypt at the time.

Predicts Period Of Calm

Israel's Chief of Staff, Gen. Mordechai Gur, predicted today that the reopening of the Suez Canal will usher in a period of calm in the Middle East. Addressing Hebrew University students, Gen. Gur said the reopening of the canal strengthened the views of those who believe that a political settlement is possible with Egypt rather than a military one. He observed that Egypt was not likely to go to war while the canal was open to navigation and that Syria and Jordan would not go to war on their own without the participation of Egypt.

In his television interview yesterday, Rabin said he didn't expect that Israel's decision to thin out its forces in Sinai would be sufficient to make Egypt disengage itself from its state of belligerency. "I would like to believe so, but I doubt it," the Premier said. "I would like to integrate, into the bargaining, a commitment toward Israel to undertake a more moderate course toward peace," he added. Rabin said an interim agreement with Egypt was possible but

cautioned that the period between such an agreement and an overall settlement might run into years.

He was less optimistic over the possibilities of an interim agreement with Syria and said there might be no way for Israel to reach such a stage with that country. He said the possibilities for territorial maneuver on the Golan Heights were very limited and it was unrealistic to believe that Syria would be satisfied by an agreement that would grant her only small concessions. Nevertheless, Rabin said, if a second-stage agreement is reached with Egypt, negotiations might be resumed with Syria at a later stage. He said his meeting with President Ford in Washington next week would not deal with any one specific point but would attempt to establish a common policy that would deal with more than one aspect of the Middle East problem.

U.S. MUM ON SHIPPING ACCORD

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA)--The State Department confirmed today that there were secret understandings in the January 1974 disengagement agreement between Israel and Egypt but refused to say whether these included an undertaking by Egypt to permit Israeli cargoes transit through the Suez Canal which was officially reopened today.

The matter came up against the background of reports that a Liberian ship carrying 12,000 tons of sugar from South Korea to Israel would attempt to pass through the canal within the next few days. State Department spokesman Robert Funseth said "There has never been any question that certain understandings exist." But when pressed by reporters to confirm reports that former President Nixon had assured former Israeli Premier Golda Meir in a 1974 letter that he had assurances on Israel-bound cargoes from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Funseth said he would not discuss "confidential" diplomatic exchanges.

In testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, U.S. Ambassador-designate to Israel Malcolm Toon said that "certain private commitments" were made in the disengagement accords on shipping, but added, "I simply don't know" whether President Sadat will "permit" Israel-bound cargoes through the canal. Regarding this matter, he said "the safest way" is to point out that UN Security Council Resolution 242 provides for what Toon said is "that possibility in the context of a general peace agreement."

ONE PERSON INJURED IN ROCKET ATTACK ON KIRYAT SHEMONA By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--Kiryat Shemona came under a pre-dawn rocket attack this morning on the eighth anniversary of the start of the Six-Day War. One person was slightly injured and a fair amount of damage was sustained in the town near the Lebanese border that has long been a target of terrorist assaults.

One 230 mm. Katyusha rocket struck the kindergarten building which was empty at the time damaging several rooms and shattering windows in nearby buildings. Other rockets smashed windows and knocked out the town's electric system for a time. Some rockets exploded in empty areas

setting off brush fires that were quickly extinguished by civil defense wardens and the local fire brigade. Residents of Kiryat Shmona, aroused from sleep by the explosions, took to air raid shelters until the all clear sounded. Artillery fire was heard later in the morning, indicating that Israeli forces were retaliating against the sources of the attack across the Lebanese border.

Stringent security measures prevailed throughout Israel and especially in the border regions on the Six-Day War anniversary, an occasion for terrorist attacks and sabotage attempts. Several West Bank youths were taken into preventive custody on suspicion that they were preparing acts of sabotage. Roadblocks were set up at junctions leading from the West Bank to Israel proper and all traffic was carefully screened.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin visited Kiryat Shmona today accompanied by Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, to inspect the rocket damage. Local townspeople urged the construction of more bomb shelters. Rabin met with town councilmen and said later that he was impressed by the courageous stand of the Kiryat Shmona residents, most of them recent immigrants.

TOON URGES QUIET DIPLOMACY IN PROTECTING ISRAEL IN UN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA)--President Ford's Ambassadors-designate to the United Nations and to Israel were in conflict yesterday on how to meet the rising threat that the Arab states, backed by their Third World allies, will try to expel Israel from the United Nations General Assembly next fall. Daniel P. Moynihan, Ford's nominee to succeed John Scali as America's Permanent Representative to the UN, declared yesterday that the U.S. must issue a tough statement "now" that it will not tolerate even an "effort" to oust Israel from the General Assembly.

But Malcolm Toon, the career foreign service diplomat nominated to replace the late Ambassador Kenneth Keating in Tel Aviv, advocated "quiet diplomacy" to protect Israel's status in the world organization. Both men expressed their views in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which is conducting hearings on their nominations.

Moynihan, a former U.S. Ambassador to India and former Harvard professor of political science, told the Senators he agreed fully with the position expressed by former UN Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg that the U.S. should pull out of the General Assembly and freeze its financial contributions to the UN if action is taken against Israel. Toon, whose last previous diplomatic post was U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, said Moynihan's approach to the "expulsion possibility" was "very undesirable."

He claimed that the "tactics" suggested by Moynihan would be "less than helpful" because "a blunt statement now would produce confrontation" and create "something we wish to avoid." He suggested, instead, that the U.S. "work quietly behind the scenes with the more moderate" members of the Arab-led "non-aligned" nations and "let them work quietly" with other elements "to prevent the collision from taking place." Toon said he wanted "this on the record."

Volunteers Statement

Toon made his statement voluntarily during

the afternoon session of the Foreign Relations Committee. He had made no mention of Moynihan's views while being questioned by committee members during the morning session. The fact that he emphasized that his comment was volunteered and that he wanted it incorporated into the official transcript of the hearing gave rise to speculation that Toon had been asked by the State Department, between the morning and afternoon committee sessions to offset the Moynihan view at a time when the Ford Administration is still occupied with its reassessment of Middle East policy. "Quiet diplomacy" advocated by Toon is in line with the approach Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has always urged as the best means to persuade the Soviet Union to ease its emigration policies toward Jews and others.

Toon's afternoon testimony was given under somewhat unusual circumstances as the only committee member present was Sen. Charles Percy (R., Ill.) who had been unable to attend the morning hearings. The Ambassador-designate to Israel appeared to disagree with Sen. Percy's suggestion that "if we don't have any contact with the PLO, getting somebody easier would be exceedingly slim." Toon said it "certainly would be helpful" if PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat took a more amenable position toward Israel like some of his "Arab brethren" but he said he found "no evidence" that Arafat is "reasonable."

Rejects Guarantee For Israel

Toon, whose diplomatic experience has been almost exclusively in the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, rejected the idea of a possible U.S.-Soviet guarantee for Israel's security. He said his "purely personal" estimate is that a "joint guarantee would have certain disadvantages." He did not elaborate. Toon testified that it would be "helpful if the Arabs drop" their economic boycott of Israel and asserted that there are "good solid moral grounds for pressure on Egypt and the Arabs" to give up the boycott. He said he thought Israel's decision to thin out its forces in Sinai was "very helpful" but cautioned that unless diplomatic movement continued either in a Geneva conference, step-by-step action or a combination of both within the next year, "the chance of war" would be "vastly increased."

TOON WON'T 'SING' FOR 'ISRAELI PRESS'

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA)--Malcolm Toon, the U.S. Ambassador-designate to Israel, declined to comment on a "delicate question" during yesterday's confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee because of the presence of the "Israeli press" in the hearing chamber. Toon looked over his shoulder at the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reporter when he made that statement.

Joseph Polakoff, chief of the JTA Washington Bureau, made it clear to Sen. Charles Percy (R., Ill.) who was conducting the questioning of Toon, that the JTA is not the "Israeli press" but an American corporation. He also asked why the witness declined to reply inasmuch as the hearings are not classified. The question that Toon balked at answering was whether he thought Israel believed that if a Democratic Administration is elected next year it will be more aggressively supportive of Israel's views.

NEW YORK (JTA)--Leaders of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Comité Central Israelita de Mexico met here Tuesday for the first meeting of the North American branch of the World Jewish Congress General Council.

McGOVERN OUTLINES ELEMENTS FOR OVERALL MIDEAST SETTLEMENT

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA)--Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) advised yesterday in a report to the Senate that "the greatest present need" in the Arab-Israeli conflict is "a general outline of a final settlement" which would be "gradually implemented through a step-by-step process."

While advising that "neither alone nor in concert with any outside power should the United States seek to impose a settlement," the 1972 Democratic presidential nominee outlined "certain basic elements" of "an overall settlement." He said that the Arabs should be prepared to "offer Israel full recognition and normalization of relations" in return for an agreement by Israel to return to her 1967 borders "with practical modifications negotiated by the parties."

Such a settlement, he added, will need to be strengthened with "international guarantees," and "additional assurances of security" through "permanent demilitarized zones, policed by international forces which could not be removed except with the consent of both parties." In addition, McGovern said, Israel is "entitled" to "solid and precise military guarantees" from the United States.

Urges Palestinian Self-Determination

McGovern, whose 90-minute meeting with Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat during his trip from March 21 to April 9, was hailed by the Arab media for being the first high U.S. official to meet with the terrorist leader, also urged that Israel "recognize Palestinian self-determination in the area of the West Bank and Gaza." He said he was "not prepared to offer a definitive recommendation at this time" regarding Jerusalem. "It is possible," he said that "once the central issue of the Palestinian state has been resolved, Jerusalem, like Golan and Sinai, may become a more manageable issue."

McGovern emphasized that "my conclusions do not offer--no assessment could--a certain path to peace." He said his "perspective has been America's interests and the claims of justice," and "from that perspective, I see these steps" (in his suggestions) as "serving our undeniable and unbreakable commitment to the survival and security of Israel, securing the advantages of improved American relations with the Arabs, and meeting the professed goal of every party involved in the Middle East--a permanent peace."

McGovern's views were in a report on his trip to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel and Iran in his new capacity as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

RABIN SAYS STRONG ECONOMY, SOCIAL STRUCTURE IS VITAL

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin told Israeli industrialists last night that a militarily secure Israel would make little sense without a sound economic structure and a strong society at home. Addressing the closing session of the Manufacturers Association's annual meeting here, Rabin stressed that the economic future of Israel lies solely in Israel's hands and if there is any criticism "it must be aimed at ourselves."

Rabin said "It is we who must seek ways and

means to boost our economy and enable it to withstand trials and challenges. We have to produce more and export more so that our position in world trade improves."

The Association elected its first "sabara" (Israel-born) president, 49-year-old Abraham Shavit, whose industrial field is metal and electronics. He succeeds Marc Moscovitz. In his acceptance speech, Shavit urged the government to follow up its tax reforms with wage reforms. He claimed that the present wage structure in Israel is the cause of much of the country's labor troubles.

STERN READIES APPEAL

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA)--Dr. August Stern, son of Dr. Mikhail Stern, sentenced in Vinnitsa on Dec. 31 to eight years imprisonment on charges of bribery, reported that in a telephone conversation with his mother in Vinnitsa yesterday, he received information that Dr. Stern's attorney David Axelbandt, met with Dr. Stern at the labor camp at Kharkov for the first time yesterday to prepare the appeal for presentation to the Supreme Court of the Soviet Union in Moscow.

According to August Stern, his father said "I am confident that the Supreme Court will recognize my innocence and will prove its justice to the world."

Mrs. Stern told her son, who is in the United States under the auspices of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jewry of Hempstead, that in her most recent meeting with her husband, he asked her to convey to his children and to his friends that he is not despondent, despite the difficulties of his present situation but is filled with hope that he will soon be free.

Meanwhile, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that Dr. Stern's other son, Viktor, has been told he must leave the Soviet Union with his wife and child within one month.

64,000 FAMILIES IN POOR HOUSING

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA)--A survey by the Housing Ministry disclosed today that some 64,000 families live in sub-standard housing in Israel's urban areas. The survey classified sub-standard housing into three categories. It found that 23,000 Jewish families live in damaged flats; 26,000 families in overcrowded apartments and the balance in housing that is both overcrowded and unfit because of its poor physical condition.

The survey said that many families live in Arab houses which were deserted by their original occupants in 1948. Large areas of such housing in the towns of Ramallah and Lod must be razed or extensively renovated, the Ministry said. The survey noted that the situation was not much better in the crowded ultra-Orthodox Mea Shearim quarter of Jerusalem. Unfit housing must be torn down, the Ministry said.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Cabinet has approved a decision by which Druze citizens will be treated directly by the government offices, and not through the government offices handling Arabs. The separation came at the demand of the leaders of the Druze community, who noted that their people serve in the army like Jews.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Hebrew University archaeologists have uncovered ritual baths and a large variety of artifacts on the site of the Hasmonean winter palace south of Jericho, it was reported by Ehud Netzer, head of the University's Institute of Archaeology who was in charge of the excavations. The baths are the oldest yet uncovered.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES ISRAEL'S RUMANIAN TIES RESULTS OF ALLON'S TRIP By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, June 5 (JTA)--Rumania's unorthodox position on the Middle East within the Eastern European Communist bloc is predicated on maintaining good relations simultaneously with Israel and the Arabs. This policy makes Rumania more important to Israel in some respects than many a greater power, despite Bucharest's ardent embrace of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Hence Israel's welcome to the decision to maintain and foster dialogue between the two countries which emerged from Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's recent official visit to Rumania and to the second visit to Israel next September by the Rumanian Foreign Minister, George Macovescu.

Allon spent five days in Rumania which included two meetings with Macovescu and an extended and decisive talk with President Nicolae Ceausescu. This correspondent, who accompanied the Foreign Minister's party to Bucharest, also learned something of the delicate equilibrium Rumania maintains within the Eastern bloc and some of the concerns it entertains regarding its own future security which, in part, is responsible for its cordial attitude toward Israel.

Rumania has a unique life of its own under the Communist bloc umbrella. It follows a more or less independent foreign policy and tries to develop an economy of its own. In the Socialist world, it is technically an equal among equals. But this does not allay certain very real fears on the part of the Rumanians.

It is no secret, for example, that its neighbor to the south, Bulgaria, has hinted of a desire to become another Republic within the aegis of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Should that ever come to pass, the Rumanians fear that a corridor may be carved through its territory along the Black Sea linking Bulgaria to "Mother Russia."

Hungary Wants Transylvania

Hungary, on Rumania's western frontier, has never forgotten Transylvania. Hungarian historians now claim that the act of union of the Rumanian provinces, including Transylvania, was really an act of "occupation."

Rumania is also disturbed by the possibility of upheaval in Yugoslavia, after President Tito dies, which may involve Rumania. In short, Bucharest feels that it needs friends outside of the Communist bloc, and her policy is motivated by the conviction that if Rumania deserts a small nation fighting for survival--a nation such as Israel--it may be deserted by others should it find itself in the same position.

On the other hand, Rumania also supports the PLO terrorists and has gone farther even than the Soviet Union in permitting the PLO to open an office in Bucharest. Rumanian leaders recently met with PLO chieftain Yasser Arafat and his aides and pledged to support a sovereign Palestinian state.

Rumania's attitude toward the PLO is the most serious obstacle to the continued improvement of its relations with Israel. Macovescu stated it bluntly at his first meeting with Allon last week which lasted four hours instead of the scheduled two. He repeated the idea of a Palestinian state at an official dinner for Allon that evening. A press conference scheduled for the

next day was postponed and it appeared for a time that a crisis had developed in Israeli-Rumanian relations.

Long Talks With Ceausescu

But Allon had a talk with President Ceausescu. It was to have been a short meeting but ran over four hours. Apparently, whatever deadlock may have been created in the earlier talk with Foreign Minister Macovescu was broken by the Rumanian President. Allon described his meeting with Ceausescu as most impressive and announced that the dialogue with Rumania will continue.

On Sunday, he had another meeting with Macovescu--not at the Foreign Ministry, but in the shade of a huge tree on the green lawn of Macovescu's "dacha" (country villa) near Bucharest. There, in a relaxed atmosphere, the two foreign ministers worked out a joint communique that Israeli circles described later as the best that could have been achieved. It was released on the eve of the meeting of President Ford and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt in Salzburg, Austria.

The communique contained no mention of the PLO or the Palestinians. It stated that both ministers were convinced that there was no more room for the old-time political system of dictation by others--meaning the great powers--which was viewed as a rejection of any imposed solution in the Middle East. The communique also expressed the right of each nation to live in lasting peace and security. This was interpreted as an indirect concurrence by Rumania to Israel's claim for secure borders.

Allon's visit to Rumania also provided an opportunity for bilateral discussions and fields for more cooperation between the two countries were explored. A cultural and scientific agreement will be worked out soon and the possibilities for a technical cooperation agreement are to be discussed. Tourism was also an important topic--Rumania is a favorite destination of Israeli tourists--and Israeli travel agents have been invited to visit Rumania's seashore and mountain resorts.

The outcome of Allon's visit was encouraging to Israel. Relations with Rumania have been advanced for the benefit of both nations. Israel, of course, had a difficult time getting across its views on the Palestinian problem to the Rumanians. But it faces the same difficulty in many Western countries. The Jerusalem-Bucharest dialogue will continue and Rumania will continue to serve as an unofficial go-between whenever possible, in the Middle East. It is clear that Rumania regards a peaceful settlement in that region--which is adjacent to her own--as in her national interests.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A chair in Israel-Arab relations has been established at the Hebrew University here in honor of Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, American sculptor and Jewish community leader and former executive vice-president of the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

WASHINGTON (JTA)--The Eastern District of Canada of B'nai B'rith has awarded its David Ben Gurion Memorial Award to Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Simcha Dinitz. The presentation was made Sunday at Ellenville, New York.

NEW YORK (JTA)--The U.S. Congress was asked to include Jews as a minority whose rights are to be protected, in a statement sent to all members of Congress by Dr. Bernard Fryshman, chairman of the Commission on Legislation and Civic Action of Agudath Israel of America.