



# daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XLII - 58th Year

Friday, July 25, 1975

No. 142

## KISSINGER, STATE DEPARTMENT SAY RABIN HAS NOT CREATED ANY PROBLEM IN DEMANDING FACE-TO-FACE TALKS

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)--The State Department said today that "no problem" has been created with respect to Israeli-Egyptian negotiations for an interim settlement by Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin's statement yesterday that the signing of such an agreement would have to be preceded by face-to-face contacts between the Israeli and Egyptian negotiating teams.

Department spokesman Robert Funseth said the U.S. has "received no complaint from the Egyptian government about that statement." He told reporters that "A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington informed us yesterday afternoon that the Prime Minister's remarks should not be interpreted as meaning something new. The character of the meeting the Israeli government has in mind is what has been done before between Israeli and Egyptian representatives in implementing the details of previous disengagement agreements."

Funseth added that the State Department accepts Israel's interpretation and confirmed that the statement was relayed to the Egyptian government by U.S. Ambassador Hermann Eilts in Cairo. "The U.S. government has no problem with this (Rabin's statement) and we have received no complaint from the Egyptian government about the statement," Funseth said.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, emerging from a meeting with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters that the U.S. did not have the impression that Rabin's call for face-to-face talks was an added demand by the Israelis nor an additional obstacle to settlement. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today told the National Congress of the Arab Socialist Union that direct negotiations with Israel were out of the question.

## ISRAEL'S NEGOTIATING TEAM STUDYING EGYPT'S COUNTER-PROPOSALS; 4 MAJOR POINTS STILL UNRESOLVED

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)--The latest Egyptian counter-proposals for a second Sinai interim accord were reported to be under study today by Premier Yitzhak Rabin, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yigal Allon, who comprise Israel's negotiating team. No details of the latest Egyptian suggestions were made public but an informed government official said four major points remain unresolved.

One is the issue of control of Israel's early-warning radar systems near the Gidi and Mitla Passes in Sinai. Israel is ready to yield the passes but wants to maintain some control over the systems' operations. A second is the demarcation of an Israeli road to Sharm el-Sheikh where it passes the Abu Rodeis oilfields, which Israel is also prepared to return to Egypt. Israel wants a western desert link to Sharm el-Sheikh which controls the entrance to the Akaba Gulf.

A third is the elements of an Egyptian commitment to non-belligerency, including a diminu-

tion of diplomatic and economic warfare against Israel. Specifically, Israel wants European and Japanese, as well as American, firms removed from the Arab boycott list. The fourth unresolved issue is precisely how much United States aid will be given to compensate Israel for the loss of 60 percent of Israel's oil needs provided by the Abu Rodeis fields.

The official also expressed the opinion that Rabin's demand, made in a speech to an American women's group, Mizrahi Women, for face-to-face talks with Egypt would not be an obstacle to a second interim accord. The Premier did not say what kind of negotiations he wanted but the official said he thought Israel might accept face-to-face talks at a military or technical level.

## TENSION CONTINUES ON SINAI

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)--Egypt's 11th hour agreement to extend the UNEF mandate which expires at midnight tonight brought no immediate relief to the tension that has been building up in Sinai in recent weeks. While the UN troops are continuing their routine patrols and inspections without incident, Israeli sources are increasingly concerned over what they see as potentially menacing moves by Egyptian land and sea forces.

Egyptian troops which face Israeli forces across the UN-patrolled buffer zone are carrying out various maneuvers aimed at strengthening their position in the event of a new outbreak of hostilities. There has also been an increase of Egyptian naval activity at both ends of the reopened Suez Canal.

Egyptian naval units have been reported steaming toward the straits of Bab el Mandeb, the narrow, strategic waterway at the southern end of the Red Sea which links it with the Indian Ocean. Shipping using the Israeli port of Eilat must pass through the straits enroute to and from Africa, Asia, the Far East and Australia. Egypt blockaded the straits during the Yom Kippur War.

While any overt military moves by Egypt seem less likely following Cairo's agreement to a three-month extension of UNEF, Israeli forces are deployed along advance lines in Sinai under conditions of an alert against possible surprise actions by Egypt.

## ADMINISTRATION SAYS NO TO COMPROMISE ON ARMS SALE TO JORDAN AFTER HUSSEIN ISSUES WARNING

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)--The Senate Foreign Relations Committee postponed until tomorrow a vote to have been held today on the Administration's controversial bill to sell a \$350 million air defense system to Jordan. The measure has encountered serious opposition in Congress on grounds that it would tip the Middle East power balance against Israel. A Capitol Hill source said today that "The Administration is not going to compromise on the sale." The State Department earlier this week proposed a reduction in the amount of "Hawk" anti-aircraft missile batteries from 14 to 6.

The Administration's reversal today on the reduction was believed to have been prompted by a

strong warning yesterday from King Hussein of Jordan that any attempt to scale down the amount of weapons would compel Jordan "to seek the weapons we need from other sources." The other sources were understood here to mean the Soviet Union. The arms deal, in addition to the "Hawks," included rapid-fire "Vulcan" anti-aircraft missiles, "Redeye" shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles, and 60 F-5 fighter planes. In order for the sale to go through both the Senate and House must vote for it. While the Senate will vote tomorrow, the House International Relations Committee was expected to vote late this afternoon.

#### ODESSA JEWISH CEMETERY DESECRATED

LONDON, July 24 (JTA)--Jewish sources in the Soviet Union reported today that unknown vandals desecrated the Jewish cemetery in the Slobodka quarter of Odessa, a Soviet city on the Black Sea. According to the report, scores of tombstones were shattered and many graves were destroyed. The police claimed they were unable to trace the miscreants. One of the famous Jews buried in the Odessa cemetery is Mendele Mocher Seforim.

#### UNIVERSITY REJECTS ARAB GRANTS THAT ARE TIED TO DISCRIMINATION

SYRACUSE, N.Y., July 24 (JTA)--Syracuse University is negotiating with Arab governments for grants to support university research projects but officials said the university would reject any grants requiring exclusion of Jewish faculty and staff members from the projects.

John J. Prucha, vice-chancellor for academic affairs, said it was "inconceivable that a great open university like Syracuse University would become involved in any project with restrictions regarding religion or nationality." The academic issue developed earlier this month when five mid-western universities halted work on a project at Riyadh University in Saudi Arabia after a Jewish dean at Michigan State University was denied a visa to work on the project.

Prucha said the university had discussed with representatives of the Saudi Arabian Education Ministry whether involvement of Jewish faculty members would affect projects involving Saudi Arabia and that "we received firm assurances there would be no difficulties." He added that projects underway or anticipated by Syracuse University, unlike that of the five midwestern schools, do not involve work in Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Michael Marge, dean of the university College for Human Development, said he and his staff have sent proposals to Iran and several other Mideast countries but that no proposals had yet been consummated.

#### REPORT JORDAN AGREES TO REFRAIN FROM ASKING U.S. FIRMS ABOUT JEWISH EMPLOYEES ON THEIR BOARDS

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)--The Department of Commerce said yesterday that Jordan had agreed not to ask American firms which export products to Jordan whether there are any Jews on their boards. The assurance was made on the basis of a letter to the Commerce Department, sent by the State Department Monday and made public yesterday, after the Commerce Department notified the State Department that an American firm reported to the Commerce Department last month that it had been asked by the Jordanian Ministry of National Economy to certify there were no Jews on its board of directors.

The State Department said, in the letter, that the issue had been raised by Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering at "very high levels" of the Jordanian government. The State Department noted that Pickering had reported the request by the National Economy Ministry to the American firm "did not have the approval of the responsible authorities of the Jordanian government." The letter added that Pickering had been assured that "steps would be taken to prevent recurrence of this particular problem."

#### JOBLESSNESS HITS NORTH ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)--Unemployment is taking a heavy toll in the northernmost reaches of Israel adjacent to the Lebanese border. Hardest hit is Kiryat Shemona, a town inhabited mainly by immigrants and a frequent target of terrorist attacks. An electronics plant which employed 35 workers has closed down and a trucking company recently dismissed all of its 22 drivers and went out of business. The local township has appealed to the government for help. Metullah, Israel's northernmost town which derived much of its income from vacationers, has been virtually deserted by tourists, apparently because of the security situation. Israelis have been urged to replace foreign visitors during their summer vacations.

#### UJA MISSION STRENGTHENS IDENTITY

NEW YORK, July 24 (JTA)--"We have greatly deepened the meaning of our lives," was the homecoming sentiment expressed by 23 family units participating in the second annual UJA Young Leadership Cabinet Family Mission upon their arrival at JFK Airport this week. The group spent two weeks in Israel exploring the meaning of the land and its people and surveying the work of the Jewish Agency in the areas of absorption, education and social welfare.

The highlight of the Mission was a special three-day Retreat outside of Tel Aviv, where the American families met with members of Dor Hemshech, their counterpart Israeli Young Leadership group. The Retreat dialogue probed the relationship between world Jewry and the people of Israel in terms of the Jewish heritage and Jewish identity. "This intensive dialogue," Donald H. Gould, Young Leadership Cabinet chairman, explained, "was designed to give each of the participating families a meaningful Jewish experience through direct interaction with the people of Israel."

The strong feelings of unity and commitment fostered during the Family Mission were most dramatically evident following the group's visit to Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Six Million. Deeply moved, the 70 American Jewish children in the group--aged five to seventeen--pledged \$1800 on behalf of the people of Israel for the current United Jewish Appeal campaign.

#### NRP THREATENS CRISIS OVER BILL PERMITTING EITHER RELIGIOUS OR CIVIL MARRIAGE By Gil-Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)--The National Religious Party threatened a coalition crisis today over a private bill before the Knesset which would permit Israelis a choice between religious or civil marriage. The women's rights measure, introduced by Shulamit Aloni of the newly formed Yaad faction, failed to pass the first of the three Knesset readings required to become law.

But the very fact of its introduction raised the

hacks of the Orthodox bloc which issued a statement denouncing "this attempt to change the marriage and divorce law" in "violation of the status quo on which the coalition is based." The NRP threatened to "take the necessary consequences."

Justice Minister Haim Zadok, speaking for the government, conceded that there was still room for improvement in the status of women in Israel but warned that the proposed bill was too far-reaching and divisive. Civil marriage and divorce do not exist in Israel where such personal matters are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Orthodox rabbinical courts.

The system, inherited from the days of the British Palestine Mandate and the earlier Turkish rule which permitted each religious sect autonomy on religious matters, is part of the uneasy status quo that governs relations between the secular majority and Orthodox minority in Israeli politics.

It has come under increasing criticism from more liberal elements in Israel but the governing Labor Party has always found it expedient to perpetuate the status quo as the price of NRP participation in the coalition government and in order to avoid a "kulturkampf" in a nation that has been menaced by its neighbors since its inception while struggling with internal economic, political and social problems.

#### ISRAEL SURPRISED BY EGYPTIAN REACTION TO RABIN'S PROPOSAL FOR FACE-TO-FACE TALKS; PRECEDENTS CITED By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 24 (JTA)--Israeli officials were visibly surprised today by the sharp reactions generated in Egypt and elsewhere by Premier Yitzhak Rabin's insistence on face-to-face talks at the final stages of the current negotiations for an interim settlement with Egypt. The officials pointed out that there were precedents for this demand in both the Israel-Egypt and Israel-Syria disengagement agreements of last year.

Rabin aired the demand in a speech yesterday to the American Women's Mizrahi convention in Jerusalem. Egypt's first reaction was to brand the demand a "new Israeli obstacle." Other Western observers tended to see it as a stalling tactic. But officials in Jerusalem said there was nothing new or revolutionary in it. It had been understood--by Israel at least--throughout the negotiations, that if they proved successful they would end with a face-to-face session between the two parties to work out details, the officials said.

Israeli and Egyptian generals and aides met at the Kilometer 101 checkpoint several times during the disengagement talks. The same happened between Israel and Syria--although then the venue was Geneva. On both occasions the UN chairman (UNEF commander Gen. Ennio Silasvuo) acted as intermediary and the parties addressed each other through him.

It is believed that Israel, while preferring of course direct discussions without an intermediary (Gen. Aharon Yariv and Gen. Mohammed Gamassy of Egypt held informal direct discussions when the formal, direct ones threatened to break down), would agree to the indirect pattern this time too. The sessions would probably take place in Geneva, immediately prior to the signing. Because of the complexity of the present accord, the face-to-face talks would probably take longer than those held during the disengagement negoti-

ations, observers here believed.

#### WRANGLE OVER WORD IN UNEF RESOLUTION DELAYS VOTE

UNITED NATIONS, July 24 (JTA)--The Security Council was scheduled to vote late this evening to extend the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in Sinai for another three months. The UNEF term was due to expire at midnight tonight.

The Council had been expected to act this morning, but the voting was delayed by prolonged behind-the-scenes wrangling over a single word in one of the preamble paragraphs of the draft resolution. The original text expressed "satisfaction" with the Egyptian government's positive reply to the Council's appeal Monday that it reconsider its earlier decision not to agree to extend UNEF. The Egyptians insisted that the word "appreciation" be substituted for "satisfaction," according to diplomatic sources.

It was not expected that there would be any substantial changes in the sections of the draft resolution expressing concern "at the continued state of tension in the area and the lack of progress toward the achievement of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East"; calling upon "the parties concerned to implement immediately Security Council Resolution 338 (1973)"; deciding to "renew the mandate of the United Nations Emergency Force for a period of three months, that is, until 24 October 1975"; and requesting the Secretary General "to submit at the end of this period or at any time in the intervening period a report on the situation in the Middle East and the steps taken to implement Resolution 338 (1973)."

Earlier in the day, Ambassador Jacob Doron, acting Permanent Representative of Israel to the UN, characterized the draft resolution as "ugly" and "lopsided." He told reporters that the preamble paragraph should also have acknowledged Israel's consent to the renewal of the UNEF mandate. "Israel should have been given appreciation too," Doron said.

#### LIBYAN AIRLINER MAY HAVE BEEN SPY PLANE

TEL AVIV, July 24 (JTA)--The Libyan commercial airliner shot down by Israeli jets over Sinai on Feb. 21, 1973, was believed at the time to have been a spy plane conducting reconnaissance over the top-secret advance warning post at Umm Hashiba, just north of the Gidi Pass, the army weekly Bamachaneh reported. Seventy persons aboard the jet were killed and 13 survived. Israel expressed "deepest regret" at the time over the error but blamed the pilot of the airliner for ignoring signals to land and maneuvering in a suspicious manner.

According to Bamachaneh the Israeli high command ordered Air Force jets to intercept the unidentified plane which had entered Israeli air space from the direction of Egypt and, since Egyptian anti-aircraft batteries failed to open fire, the supposition was that the Egyptians were aware of its mission.

In addition, the fact that the plane was ordered to land at the Israeli air base at Refidim in northern Sinai but that the pilot turned westward on a course directly over the secret installations at Umm Hashiba convinced the Israeli pilots it was on a spy mission. It turned out later that the Libyan aircraft lost direction in a sandstorm after taking off from Cairo and inadvertently strayed over Sinai.

## JEWISH LEADERS PRESENT VIEWS ON MIDEAST PEACE TO SENATE COMMITTEE REASSESSING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

WASHINGTON, July 24 (JTA)--An economically strong and militarily secure Israel, with recognized and defensible borders, provides the best hope for Middle East peace and stability, Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told a Senate subcommittee here yesterday.

Speaking before the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, Rabbi Miller said that the "prevention of Soviet domination over the Middle East is a mutual strategic goal of America and Israel." He added that "an Israel stripped of geographic assets vital for its defense, an Israel deprived of the means of defending itself, an Israel economically weakened, would entail great risks for the United States."

Others who appeared before the subcommittee which is conducting a hearing on the "Arab-Israeli Dispute--Priorities for Peace," included Arthur J. Goldberg, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and Philip Klutznick of Chicago, a world Jewish leader and a former member of the U.S. delegation to the UN.

Sen. George McGovern (D,SD), chairman of the subcommittee, said at the outset that the Administration's reassessment of American policy in the Mideast "cannot be made by the executive branch alone. It is vital that the Congress accept its responsibilities in the determination of American policy." McGovern also stressed that the relationship between Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab states "is the most strategic" of the problems in the Mideast, "for unless the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved, there is little likelihood that any other problems of the area will be."

### Steps Toward Peace Outlined

Rabbi Miller said that movement toward peace in the Mideast requires "normalization" of relations between Israel and the Arab states which includes diplomatic, economic and cultural relations along with secure and mutually-agreed on borders.

Goldberg, while welcoming an interim agreement between Israel and Egypt if achieved, said he was concerned that the U.S. had "applied considerable pressure on Israel, by freezing arms and economic assistance, in seeking to obtain its agreement to such an accord." Goldberg said there was nothing wrong with the U.S. urging Israel to give "thoughtful and sympathetic consideration to a proposed settlement in our common interest. It is quite another matter, however, for the United States to impose its views about a settlement by a carrot and stick approach."

Both Goldberg and Klutznick said the next step once the Sinai agreement is reached will be a return to the Geneva conference. Both said any Middle East settlement should be based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. Klutznick said he would favor a return to Geneva if "adequate groundwork is laid and limited pre-conditions met."

Klutznick listed these as setting the date three to six months in advance to permit concrete developments, a restoration of relations between Israel and the Soviet Union, a declaration by the Palestine Liberation Organization stating its recognition of the sovereignty and independence

of all states attending the conference, an end to terrorism and military operations against Israel by the PLO coupled with an end to Israel's retaliatory raids, a declaration by the Arab League suspending the boycott against Israel and an end to counter-action by Jewish groups, the renunciation by the Arabs of their intention to use the oil embargo, and an end to the abuse of the UN system.

## U.S., CANADIAN LEADERS TO MEET WITH RABIN IN AUGUST

NEW YORK, July 24 (JTA)--Forty-five U.S. and Canadian Jewish leaders will go to Jerusalem at the invitation of Premier Yitzhak Rabin on August 2 for intensive discussions on Israel's urgent economic needs. During the three days of intensive sessions and visits to strategic economic and security sites, the Israel Bond leaders will also confer with former Premier Golda Meir, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Defense Minister Shimon Peres, Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur, and other high government officials. The special top level conference will wind up its program August 5 at a dinner with President Ephraim Katzir.

The Israel meetings will signal the launching of intensive preparations throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and other parts of the free world for the fall campaign for Israel Bonds to provide a maximum share of Israel's current \$1 billion development budget.

An International Fall Leadership Planning Conference, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago August 22-24, will mark the official start of the fall drive for the sale of Israel Bonds to strengthen Israel's economy as a foundation for a secure future. Immediately upon their return to the United States and Canada, the 45 members of the Jerusalem Conference will address report meetings in their home communities on its results.

## SYRIAN BUTCHERY OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS

NEW YORK, July 24 (JTA)--Shortly after expelling the Syrians from the Golan Heights in October 1973, Israel recovered the bodies of Israeli soldiers who, judging by the condition in which they were found, had all been murdered and mutilated after being taken alive. The American Zionist Federation this week distributed a passage, in English and Arabic, from the official gazette of the Syrian government, Al-Jarida al-Rasmiya, dated July 11, 1974, which has been overlooked until now which reveals the manner in which some of these Israeli soldiers were murdered by their Syrian captors.

In the course of a debate in the Syrian National Assembly in December 1973, the Minister of Defense, Mustafa T'las cited the following incident as an example of "supreme valor."

"There is the outstanding case of a recruit from Aleppo who murdered 28 Jewish (Israeli) soldiers all by himself, slaughtering them like sheep. All of his comrades in arms witnessed this. He butchered three of them with an axe and decapitated them. In other words, instead of using a gun to kill them he took a hatchet to chop their heads off. He struggled face to face with one of them and, throwing down his axe, managed to break his neck and devour his flesh in front of his comrades. This is a special case. Need I single it out to award him the Medal of the Republic? I will grant this medal to any soldier who succeeds in killing 28 Jews and I will cover him with appreciation and honor for his bravery."