



daily news bulletin

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Vol. XLIII—59th Year

Monday, February 23, 1976

No. 36

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The pullback, which involved an undisclosed number of troops and the transfer of some IL 200 million worth of equipment and building material, was accomplished without a hitch, according to Gen. Aryeh Levi, chief of the logistics division at General Headquarters (See related analysis P. 4)

The new Israeli lines--nearly double the length of the old lines--run from the Mediterranean coast west of El Arish to a point at the southern end of the Gulf of Suez. They extend through sand dunes, described as semi-passable, across a flat plateau that is suited for tank battles and end in rugged mountain terrain. Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who inspected the new positions last Thursday, said he had found not one military officer from the Chief of Staff down to field commanders who doubted that the Israeli forces could successfully defend the new lines.

The Israeli withdrawal represents a pull-back of 30-40 kilometers from the old positions known as the Barlev Line and an advance of some 10-15 kilometers for the Egyptians. The United Nations buffer zone between the new Israeli and Egyptian lines is much larger than the old buffer zone which has been handed back to the Egyptians.

Detection Stations Set Up

The Israeli forces are now deployed east of the strategic Mitla and Gidi passes, except for the advance warning post at Umm Khashiba which is subject to UN inspection. American technicians have completed setting up three un-manned detector stations in the buffer zone. There will be three manned surveillance posts, one Israeli, one Egyptian and one American. Data received at the American post will be transmitted by teleprinter and telephone, to both the Israeli and Egyptian posts.

Peres, who spoke to Israeli and foreign newsmen during his inspection tour, acknowledged that the new defense lines were less favorable than the old ones militarily but more advantageous for Israel politically. He expressed the view that the interim agreement with Egypt indicated a decision by Cairo to move away from the war option and concentrate on Egypt's massive economic problems. He expressed the hope that the present state of Israeli-Egyptian relations will remain stable and may eventually pave the way for a final peace settlement.

ALLON: ANY PALESTINIAN BODY WHICH RECOGNIZES ISRAEL IS ILLEGITIMATE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Any Palestinian body which honestly accepts the existence of

Israel and which is willing to co-exist with Israel and cooperate with it is a constructive factor, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said in an interview published Friday in "Haaretz."

Allon said this in answering a question on whether the Palestine Liberation Organization, if it recognized the existence of Israel, would become a constructive Palestinian factor which could be negotiated with. Allon added, however, that he did not believe that the PLO could become such a factor, and said that it was really a hypothetical question.

Referring to Jordan, Allon said that if the PLO took over Jordan or if Jordan formed a union with Syria, Israel would have to reconsider "Jordan's" place regarding the future of the West Bank." As to Egypt, Allon said that there was room for another interim agreement with that country on the condition that it would be a last interim agreement before final normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt.

RABIN SAYS ISRAEL, U.S. HAVE AGREED THAT NEXT MIDEAST GOAL SHOULD BE OF A POLITICAL NATURE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Israel and the U.S. have agreed that the next goal in the step-by-step approach for peace in the Middle East should be of a political nature, Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the Board of Governors of the American Jewish Committee here last Thursday night.

Rabin said that if Israel could not have total peace "at least we shall aim at a formal, legal and practical cessation of war." The Premier warned, however, that once negotiations start, different positions might be taken by the U.S. and Israel.

The possibility of peace or end of war with Egypt was first raised through Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and his shuttle negotiations last March and August, but the answer Egypt gave was no. As the result of the interim agreement the unity between Arab countries was impaired, Rabin said. However, he said, it is still obvious that not even Egypt would alone sign any document guaranteeing peace. He pointed out that both the U.S. and Israel believe that Jordan could be the second partner to enter such a pact.

Asked about the growing cooperation between Jordan and Syria, Rabin said that nobody could profit from it in the Middle East, but "unions have been established between Arab countries before without lasting results." Elmer L. Winter, president of the AJ Committee, in introducing Rabin, pledged, "our continued and unequivocal support."

GOREN, FORD MEET FOR 20 MINUTES; CHIEF RABBI SAYS PRESIDENT FEELS EGYPT WILL NOT GO TO WAR WITH ISRAEL By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Rabbi Shlomo Goren, the Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel, left today for Israel after a two-week visit to the United States and an unscheduled meeting with President Ford at the White House. In an address at Shomrai Amunah Synagogue in Silver Spring, Md., yesterday, Goren indicated that the Egyptian-Israeli agreement in the Sinai was among the topics he discussed with Ford in their meeting last



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Thursday.

He said the President felt that Egypt would not go to war with Israel again because "it would adversely affect the Egyptian economy and would result in the immediate closing of the Suez Canal. Goren also indicated that Ford believed that Israelis should not feel concerned about the agreement because it will be successful.

The Chief Rabbi and Ford conferred for 20 minutes during a meeting arranged by the Israeli Embassy. Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the President's special assistant for security affairs, were also present. Topics included Jewish questions including the plight of Soviet and Syrian Jews.

Israeli sources described the meeting as extremely friendly and warm. The White House said the meeting was arranged after Goren asked to meet with Ford and that the visit was a courtesy call of a private and social nature.

In his sermon yesterday, Goren stressed that events affecting Israel cannot be judged by day-to-day events but in the perspective of history. He said he saw the hand of God in Israel's successes in war and in the development of the country.

Goren, who was the guest of Rabbi Gedaliah Anemer of Shomrai Emunah Synagogue, went after yesterday's service to the home of Charles and Gitta Siegman where he attended a bris. He also addressed students of the Yeshiva High School in Silver Spring and the Hebrew Academy in Washington. During his two-week trip, Goren also visited New York, Boston and Toronto.

TANENBAUM; EXPOSE, PUNISH JEWS WHO ARE GUILTY OF INVOLVEMENT IN NURSING HOMES MEDICAID SWINDLES

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, commenting on reports that records of a number of Hebrew day schools have been subpoenaed on suspicion of involvement in nursing home Medicaid swindles, said that guilty Jews should "be exposed and punished regardless of who they are and what may be their titles or positions."

He said the AJCommittee "together with every responsible Jewish group" condemns "practices of a few individuals in the Jewish community who have reportedly engaged in illegal and immoral financial transactions with nursing homes for private gains."

According to Jewish sources, the day school records have been subpoenaed by Charles J. Hynes, the special prosecutor for nursing homes whose efforts have led to indictments of Rabbi Bernard Bergman and Eugene Hollander, two leading Orthodox Jews, on state and federal charges of misuse of Medicaid funds in their nursing home operations. Hollander has pleaded guilty and is awaiting sentence.

The sources said the new development went beyond the earlier disclosures concerning Bergman and Hollander, who reportedly had made contributions to religious organizations and to leading rabbis under the guise of nursing home costs which were subsequently reimbursed with Medicaid funds.

A Violation Of Judaism

Tanenbaum said that "the fact that ostensibly religious Jews or rabbis have allegedly been involved and that such exploitation takes place at the expense of poor and elderly people--many of

whom are Jews--only compounds the scandal. Such reprehensible behavior violates every moral and ethical canon of Judaism and of the Jewish people."

"If the reports are true," he continued, "the Jewish community surely wants this scandalous business investigated thoroughly and completely. We urge that the guilty be exposed and punished regardless of who they are and what may be their titles or positions."

B'NAI B'RITH 'ADOPTS' SMALL RURAL TOWN IN EARTHQUAKE-STRUCK GUATEMALA

GUATEMALA CITY, Feb. 22 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith has "adopted" a small rural town in central Guatemala as a relief project for that earthquake-devastated country. Chinaluta, about 10 miles from this capital city, was selected by Ricardo Holzer of Panama, chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council, who presented a check for \$1000 to relief officials last Thursday, initiating the B'nai B'rith campaign. About 80 percent of Chinaluta's homes were destroyed, leaving some 4500 persons homeless.

Holzer said that Chinaluta, out of the hub of economic activity, was selected because it seemed apparent that it would be low in the government's reconstruction priorities. Each new shelter will cost an estimated \$500. Plans for the structures have been drawn up by Guatemala University's School of Architecture.

B'nai B'rith members in Guatemala have been assisting rescue and relief agencies in caring for the injured and homeless. Max Trachtenberg, president of the B'nai B'rith lodge there, is director of the volunteer firemen.

CZF PLEDGES SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL By Michael Solomon

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The fourth national convention of the Canadian Zionist Federation closed here on a note of unswerving unity with Israel and expressions of confidence that whatever the future holds, the community of purpose between the people of Israel and the Jews of the diaspora will succeed in surmounting it.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin, addressing more than 1000 delegates at the closing banquet at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, said Israel was determined to keep itself strong and promote its development. "I don't know if war will break out but I know we must be prepared to defend ourselves and we shall never again be caught by surprise," Rabin said.

He stated that on his recent state visit to Washington he was convinced that there is full understanding by the government and people of the United States of Israel's policies. However, he added, Israel has to rely more than ever on the support of the Jewish community throughout the world.

The Premier said Israel was eager to live in peace as a Jewish State. If peace has not been achieved, he said, it was not Israel's fault. The Sinai disengagement agreement was a risk taken for the sake of peace. "I believe that Israel has done the right thing, because if another war breaks out you must be sure you have done everything, explored every avenue to prevent it," Rabin said.

Dr. Leon Kronitz, re-elected executive vice-president of the CZF, summed up the eight-day convention and expressed his conviction that the Canadian government will always stand for the security of Israel. He urged the delegates to pledge themselves to carry out the resolutions of the convention after it has closed.

Philip Givens, re-elected president of the CZF,

said it was imperative that a bastion of democracy should exist in the Middle East. Givens, a member of the Canadian Parliament from Toronto, said "We don't ask for special favors but we should demonstrate to the Canadian government that the PLO should not be allowed to enter Canada." He was referring to the Habitat Conference in Vancouver this April to which the PLO has been invited.

CABINET AGREES TO U.S. MOVES TO TEST ARABS' WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT OF NON-BELLIGERENCY

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The Cabinet agreed today to assent to American moves that would test the readiness of Israel's Arab neighbors to enter into an agreement of non-belligerency with Israel. Such an agreement would be less than a formal peace settlement but would amount to a renunciation of the state of war. The decision, adopted unanimously after a lengthy debate at today's Cabinet session, was said to apply to the three confrontation states bordering Israel--Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

The Cabinet took up the matter apparently in response to suggestions put to Rabin by the U.S. Administration during the Premier's visit to Washington last month. Rabin reportedly told the Americans at the time that he could agree to an American probe of Egyptian and Syrian attitudes on a non-belligerency pact but needed Cabinet approval for similar approaches toward Jordan.

The Premier stressed that any settlement with Jordan involving territorial concessions by Israel would have to be approved in advance by a national referendum, possibly in the form of new elections.

The Cabinet was reported to have deliberately avoided discussion of any quid pro quo Israel would be prepared to offer the Arabs in exchange for non-belligerency. Israel's public offer last spring to withdraw from the Golan Heights and the Abu Rodeis oilfields in Sinai in exchange for an agreement of non-belligerency with Egypt is acknowledged to have been a political error. Israel has withdrawn from these positions under the interim accord with Egypt signed at Geneva last September, but has gotten nothing approaching non-belligerency from the Egyptians.

U.S. Efforts To Reconvene Geneva

The American feelers will apparently be made simultaneously with efforts to reconvene the Geneva conference. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is said to believe that the usefulness of step-by-step diplomacy has ended but that a full-fledged peace settlement is not a practical expectation at this time. Israeli observers do not place much hope on Geneva at this stage because of Syrian insistence on PLO participation in the conference. Syria is supported in this by the Soviet Union, co-chairman with the U.S. of the Geneva conference.

Efforts to revive the Geneva conference are currently being promoted by UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. Roberto Guyer, UN Under-secretary, is due in the Middle East tomorrow. He will meet with Foreign Minister Yigal Allon Tuesday morning. After visiting the various Middle East parties to the Geneva conference, he will go to Moscow to ascertain the Soviet view on the possible resumption of the parley.

SCRANTON AGREES WITH MOYNIHAN

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22 (JTA)--William Scranton, who is scheduled to be named U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to succeed Patrick Moynihan, said here that he agreed completely with Moynihan's sharp criticism of the UN General Assembly for its Nov. 10 vote approving a resolution which equated Zionism with racism.

Speaking last Thursday night at a meeting of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Jewish Committee, Scranton said he believed Moynihan's position at the UN was a good one and called himself a "fan" of Moynihan. He told the 200 members that the United States was correct in condemning Third World nations that "scapegoat" Israel or see Israel as a menace. He said Israel deserves peace and security as much or more than any nation in the world.

Scranton praised Arthur Burns, Federal Reserve Board chairman, for his letter to banks warning them against accepting letters of credit with Arab boycott restrictions.

Defends 1968 'Even-Handed' Statement

He defended the statement he made as President Nixon's special envoy after a tour of the Middle East in 1968 that the United States should adopt a more "even-handed" policy toward Middle East countries, a statement widely criticized at the time by supporters of Israel. Scranton said that "that was then and this is now." He said at the time the Soviet Union was predominant in the Arab world and that it was important for the United States to have "credibility" in the Arab world, a situation which led him to offer his comment then.

LAWSUIT AGAINST ARAB INFORMATION CENTER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 (JTA)--The Department of Justice said it is pressing in a lawsuit to have the Arab Information Center in New York City identify its "true relationship" with the League of Arab States in advertisements that it has placed frequently in American publications and that it might place in the future. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court here last Thursday, charged the center and its director, Amin Hilmy II, with violating a federal registration requirement in connection with a propaganda campaign for the League of Arab States.

Robert Havel, director of public information for the Justice Department, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Hilmy has not registered as a foreign agent as required by U.S. law and should register to continue his activities.

In addition, the suit charges the Arab Information Center failed to label as propaganda advertisements in various newspapers, including an advertisement in November, 1975, that sought to explain that the United Nations General Assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism was not an attack on Judaism but on Zionism, Havel said.

The suit also alleges, according to Havel, that the Arab Information Center had refused to produce certain correspondence that it is required to keep under the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act, and it seeks to obtain that correspondence. Furthermore, the suit asks the court that the center produce the books and records of the Arab Information Center in Washington. Havel told the JTA that the next step is a response from the Arab Information Center and a court procedure for a hearing.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI AREA EVOKES PESSIMISM ABOUT BENEFITS TO ISRAEL**

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22 (JTA)--As Israel completed its withdrawals in the Sinai today, there was a growing pessimism about the benefits to Israel of the disengagement agreement signed with Egypt last September. The feeling among many Israelis was that Israel had carried out its part of the agreement to the letter but it had seen little results from the other partners to the accord, Egypt and especially the United States.

There have been few signs from Egypt that it wants peace. In fact, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has said there cannot be any peace between Israel and Egypt in this generation. While Egypt has allowed Israeli cargo to pass through the Suez Canal it has not kept its promise to tone down anti-Israeli propaganda.

But what is really concerning Israelis is the United States and particularly the arms that were promised to Israel from the U.S. Israel's consent to the agreement was based on American assurances that there would be a steady flow of arms to replace the military advantages Israel had in the Sinai positions it was giving up, according to one Israeli who is an ardent supporter of the U.S.

But he noted that now Israel faces the same delaying tactic that was used by the United States during the Ford Administration's reassessment that held up arms delivery between the time the disengagement talks broke down in March, 1975 and the time the agreement was signed in September. Promises of almost unlimited U.S. arms, including the Pershing missiles, have resulted in cuts in the U.S. supplies and in delays in shipments. This has jeopardized the planning of the Israel Defense Force which had expected to receive tanks, armored cars and other items at an early date and now must wait at least two more years for them.

Other Concerns Expressed

Also unexplainable, according to Israelis, is the American decision, seen as adverse to Israel, not to allow Israel to produce parts for the American F-16 on the grounds that it would mean transferring sophisticated American know-how to Israel. There is some perplexity over the real intentions of the U.S. in its refusal to supply Israel with infra-red equipment needed to fight the terrorists.

Israelis are also concerned about what they see as an American attempt to force Israel to accept agreements with the Arabs as a means of improving American influence with the Arab states at the expense of the Soviet Union. They say that the attempt to cut Soviet influence has failed and claim that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's detente program is a one-way street in which the USSR continues to carry out its expansionist plans.

The Israelis note that the Soviet Union is entrenched in Syria, having supplied that Arab state with an unparalleled flow of sophisticated arms and is now making an effort to win over Jordan.

They note the visit of a top Soviet official to Amman last month, the visits of Syrian leaders to the Jordanian capital, the sending of Jordanian troops to Syria for training, and the possibility that Jordan will turn to the Soviet Union for arms. All indicate that the USSR is planting roots in

Jordan. They note that the U.S. is not checking this advance which it could do by helping Israel maintain the balance of power against the Arab states.

There is also an increasingly disquieting feeling among Israelis that the U.S. is preparing another phase of pressure on Israel through delays of supplies and denials of some items on Israel's purchasing list. Many Israelis feel that Israel paid the bill in carrying out the withdrawals, but has not received the promised merchandise, not even peace.

RENE CASSIN DEAD AT 88

PARIS, Feb. 22 (JTA)--Prof. Rene Cassin, Nobel Prize Laureate, author of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and honorary president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, died here Friday at the age of 88. One of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's earliest followers in June, 1940 after the Nazis overran France, the Jewish French-born writer, statesman and attorney broke with de Gaulle in 1967 over the General's Middle East policy. Prof. Cassin, commenting on de Gaulle's arms embargo on Israel, stated: "France is identifying itself with injustice."

Prof. Cassin obtained his doctorates in law, economy and political science and was appointed law professor first at Aix-en-Provence University and then at the Sorbonne. In the 1920s he was a French delegate to the League of Nations and served in this capacity until the outbreak of World War II. In June, 1940, he was the first ranking French civilian to join de Gaulle in London and was subsequently appointed Minister of Justice in de Gaulle's "Free French" government.

At the end of the war, Prof. Cassin was appointed vice-president of the Council of State, France's highest non-political administrative post, and was subsequently appointed as the Council's honorary president. He was the first French delegate to the UN Commission on Human Rights and then its president. In 1968 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and in 1973 the Goethe Prize. He donated the monies of these awards to humanitarian activities. Prof. Cassin was throughout his career interested and active in Jewish and Israeli affairs. In 1974 a French high school was inaugurated in Jerusalem bearing his name.

Among the many positions he held, Prof. Cassin was the head of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations and a former president of the European Human Rights Court and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences. He was a founder of UNESCO and subsequently a strong critic of that UN body's politicalization.

Prof. Cassin took a leading part in campaigns for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate. As president of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, he joined the American Jewish Committee in the sponsorship of a conference in Uppsala, Sweden in 1972, which influenced the human rights sections of the Helsinki Declaration adopted by 35 countries last year. His honors included the Croix de Guerre, Medaille Militaire, and Officer of the Resistance.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, Jewish Defense League leader, who was evicted from the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, arrived in his Jerusalem home last Thursday night after a lengthy absence. He told newsmen here that he had quietly slipped across the Dutch-Belgian border, and reached the Brussels II conference hall undetected.