



daily news bulletin

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SYRIAN ARMY REGULARS, DISGUISED AS TERRORISTS, REPORTED IN LEBANON

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA)--Reports persisted today that Syrian army regulars, disguised as members of the Syrian-backed Al Saiga terrorist group, have entered Lebanon and are deployed in key positions in that country. Al Saiga units were reported yesterday to be in the outskirts of Beirut. They were reported today to have occupied the Lebanese port of Sidon, south of Beirut, the location of large oil refineries.

There has been no confirmation of these reports which have emanated from both rival factions in Lebanon--the right-wing Christian Falangists and the leftist leader Kamal Jumblat. It was Jumblat's claim that the Al Saiga units were actually Syrian soldiers. He also charged that Syria was trying to impose a cease-fire at a time when the leftists were routing the Falangists.

Israeli circles are inclined to accept the reported entry of Syrian units into Lebanon as authentic. The belief here is that Damascus has deliberately avoided publicizing the presence of its forces in Lebanon and has resorted to the Al Saiga disguise so as not to give Israel grounds for intervention.

The U.S. is aware of these events but is also desirous of preventing an Israeli-Syrian confrontation while at the same time supporting the efforts of Syrian President Hafez Assad to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon, Israeli circles said. The officially stated U.S. policy has been that it would tolerate no outside intervention in Lebanon by either Syria or Israel.

Who Rules Is An Internal Problem

Meanwhile, Israeli Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur told a group of visiting American businessmen yesterday that Israel regards the events in Lebanon as an internal problem and the question of who rules that country a matter of purely local concern. He said that Israel has not concentrated forces on the northern border and will not intervene as long as there was no danger to Israel's borders.

Gur, who met with the Americans at Kiryat Shemona after they toured the Golan Heights, said he did not believe there would be a Middle East war in 1976 but warned that the chances for war will increase in the next two years unless there is a political advance toward peace because the Egyptians, by then, will have received large quantities of weapons from the West.

The Chief of Staff indicated that Israel's immediate concern was the security of its eastern frontiers. He said the Arabs have concentrated some 3700 tanks on Israel's eastern borders and, together with the Egyptians, Israel would have to face more than 7000 enemy tanks in the event of a new war. He said the Arabs have 60 operational air bases near Israel's borders.

Gur stressed the importance of the American role in the Middle East. But he observed that the worsening of Egyptian-Soviet relations does not automatically reduce the effectiveness of the Egyptian army. He said Israel needed the most

sophisticated monitoring equipment to watch developments in the Arab countries.

BLATANTLY ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE USSR

LONDON, April 5 (JTA)--The author of an inflammatory anti-Semitic book in the Soviet Union will shortly be publishing another work of a similar nature, according to a Soviet source quoted here by the Institute of Jewish Affairs.

The forthcoming book, entitled, "Invasion Without Arms," is by Vladimir-Yakovlevich Begun, a journalist from Minsk. The title is the same as one of the chapters of his earlier book, "Creeping Counter-Revolution," published two years ago. Dr. Laszlas Hirsowicz, of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, said that Begun's first book was blatantly anti-Jewish and designed to rekindle or strengthen religious and racial prejudice.

Begun's new book, of which 100,000 copies are to be printed, is to be issued by the Molodaya Gvardiya Publishing House of Moscow, which publishes material known for its nationalistic tendencies. A Soviet preview of the book has said that it will "unmask modern methods of Zionist propaganda, the ideological adventurism of international Zionism, and its provocationist activity."

VORSTER DUE IN ISRAEL THIS WEEK

Visit Seen As Marking Solid

Improvements Between The Two Nations
By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin officially informed his Cabinet tonight that Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa will visit Israel as his guest for two or three days beginning later this week.

The Israel Radio and BBC, which carried the announcement, stressed that Vorster was coming to Israel as a "pilgrim" to visit the holy places. But observers here noted that the visit marked a solid improvement in relations between Israel and the Republic of South Africa that began to take shape after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Prior to that, relations between Israel and South Africa had been severely strained due to Israel's votes against South Africa on the apartheid issue in the UN during the 1960s, including support of sanctions against that country. At the time, Israel's relations with the Black African nations were flourishing and Premier David Ben Gurion maintained that Israel could not avoid taking a moral stand against the racial policies of South Africa.

Since then, Israel's diplomatic position in Black Africa has deteriorated, partly as a result of Arab propaganda efforts. But the Israeli attitude toward South Africa remains ambivalent. On one hand, Israel still says it does not condone apartheid. On the other, Israelis recognize South Africa as one of its few remaining friends in the world. There is, in fact, a certain kinship between the two countries in that both have been diplomatically isolated, although for different reasons.

Several months ago, the Israeli Consulate in Johannesburg was raised to Embassy level and

shortly afterward the South African Consulate in Tel Aviv became an Embassy. Commercial relations between the two countries have expanded over the past few years.

South African Jewish Community

Israel also has strong ties with the prosperous Jewish community of 120,000 in South Africa. It is regarded as one of the warmest and most generous Jewish communities in the world with respect to its material and moral support for Israel. Jewish education, Jewish youth movements and Zionism have found a hospitable climate in South Africa. Recently, an easing of currency regulations by the South African government has allowed the Jewish community to render massive financial assistance to Israel.

Apartheid Is A Serious Barrier

But apartheid remains a serious barrier, and because of it, Israel's friendship with South Africa has been used with notable success by the Arabs in branding Israel a racist state. Many Israelis themselves cannot reconcile their own ideals of democracy with friendship toward an apartheid regime.

The Histadrut newspaper Davar addressed itself to those feelings in an editorial today which recalled that South Africa was among the first countries to recognize Israel. The paper claimed that Vorster has achieved success in his policy of detente with some of the non-radical Black African states and that he has taken steps to soften apartheid. The consensus here appears to be that Vorster's visit is important to Israel and the South African leader seems assured of a warm welcome.

TOON WARNS ISRAEL TO BE FLEXIBLE ON SECURITY NEEDS; SAYS ANTI- ISRAELI BACKLASH POSSIBLE IN U.S. By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, April 5 (JTA)--Ambassador Malcolm Toon has warned Israel that it must be as flexible as its security needs permit lest Americans come to feel--rightly or wrongly--that the Israeli government is stubborn in its response to American interests in the Middle East. Toon expressed his views in an interview in "Migvan," a periodical published by Beit Berl, the ideological institute of the Labor Party headed by former Foreign Minister Abba Eban.

The U.S. envoy was responding to a question as to whether there was danger of anti-Semitism in the U.S. in reaction to Israeli policies. He said that anti-Israel feelings could develop and that some elements in the U.S. may hold Jewry responsible for Israeli policies they believed ran counter to U.S. interests in the region.

He stressed, however, that U.S.-Israel relations were based on mutual principles, ideals and interests but he would not specify exactly what those interests are. Ambassador Toon said, in reply to that question that he believed it was in America's interest for Israel to be a free, independent state and since that was also Israel's national interest, it covers everything.

Toon warned, as reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency yesterday and by Israeli news media today, that Israel should not expect as much economic aid from the U.S. in the future as it presently receives.

He explained that the aftermath of the Vietnam war and the internal problems that have developed in the U.S. have brought about changes in

American thinking on foreign aid. Americans are more concerned now with domestic issues, he said. However, Toon stressed that the U.S. did not expect Israel to pay for the modern armaments it needs and that it could continue to rely on the U.S. for military support.

Toon said he believed that Israel was capable of attaining economic independence, though it was not an easy task. He said some of the economic measures taken here in the last few years were leading Israel in that direction.

PINCUS FUND BEGINS TO FUNCTION

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA)--The Pincus Fund for Jewish Education in the Diaspora has begun to operate, Max Fisher, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors announced here. A meeting of the Fund's board was held here last week with Fisher attending.

The Board mapped out broad guidelines for the use of its moneys--interest earned from a capital of \$5 million. The priorities, officials said, will be teacher training, educational materials and research, and establishment and expansion of educational institutions. The Fund will not support the regular budgets of ongoing programs. Local participation in projects is a prerequisite for support from the Fund.

Priority will be given to requests from less well-served communities--in South America, Europe, the Moslem countries and remote Jewish communities. The late Louis Pincus developed the idea of an education fund shortly before his death in 1972 and the fund was later set up bearing his name. The participants in it are the Israel government, the Jewish Agency, the World Zionist Organization and the Joint Distribution Committee. Fisher is board chairman and Moshe Krone of the WZO Executive is vice-chairman.

U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY URGED TO RETOOL FOR EMERGENCY SITUATION By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--Predicting that the Jewish people is going to have "seven lean years ahead" and contending that Israel and world Jewry are in a state of "national emergency," Uri Ben-Ari, Israel's Consul General in New York, urged a "reassessment of the situation" and a "change of policy" on the part of the American Jewish community.

Addressing a press-conference at the Israel Consulate here today, Ben-Ari declared that "the Jewish community here should reassess its policy, its organizations and means. The struggle of tomorrow requires new means and a new approach. New ways and new thinking must be explored," Ben-Ari emphasized, adding: "A change must take place."

Part of the required changes, Ben-Ari said, must include an attempt by American Jews and the people of Israel "to know each other better." He noted that the Israelis have only a vague idea of the deep commitment and actual help given by American Jewry to Israel. "Israelis must be informed about it. It will give them strength and a sense of unity," he said. On the other hand, Ben-Ari added, American Jews must be informed about the real happenings in Israel because the picture that emerges from the media is "distorted" and does not reflect reality in Israel as it is.

Need To Organize 'Unorganized Jews'

Charging that "hundreds of thousands" of Jews in New York and vicinity have no involvement in

Jewish matters and Israel, Ben-Ari said it has become a "major aim" to organize the "unorganized Jews."

Ben-Ari grimly pointed to the fact that only eight percent of the Jewish children in the greater New York area attend Jewish day schools. "This is a troublesome figure," he said. Noting that the Jews in New York "are under-organized," Ben-Ari stated: "The time has come to establish an organization to deal with the Jewish community here." He also said that a new approach should be adopted to deal with the growing number of Israeli residents in New York.

On the national scene, Ben-Ari charged that many Jewish students on campuses across the country have not been reached and are exposed to hostile anti-Israeli propaganda and assimilation.

NEW SOURCE OF FRICTION IN LABOR PARTY By Tuvia Mendelson and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, April 5 (JTA)--An obviously well-intentioned attempt by a group of Labor Party MKs to encourage Premier Yitzhak Rabin at a time when he has come under severe criticism from within the Labor Alignment appeared yesterday to have created a new source of friction in Labor ranks. Rabin may have been gratified by expressions of support and well wishes from the 14 MKs who visited his Tel Aviv office last Thursday night. But he cannot be pleased by the repercussions of that visit which, according to many observers, only served to underline the precarious position of the Premier in his own party.

The visit was initiated by Ms. Orah Namir who said she felt it was necessary for Laborites to express confidence in the Premier even though many of them disagree with some of the government's policies. The delegation she recruited for the purpose was hardly a band of unswerving loyalists.

It included veteran Labor leader Yitzhak Ben Aharon, who was a thorn in the side of both former Premier Golda Meir and Rabin. It also included the newest "enfant terrible" of Labor's Knesset faction, Yossi Sarid who only last week submitted a motion to the Knesset criticizing the government for deporting two West Bank Arab leaders on the eve of registration for the West Bank municipal elections. Ben Aharon, for his part, has demanded an explanation from Rabin for the violence that erupted in Arab towns and villages in Israel last Tuesday--an event for which no Israelis seem to have a satisfactory explanation.

Nevertheless, both Sarid and Ben Aharon reportedly assured Rabin that their desire to bring these issues into the open did not imply lack of support. They wished him well in continuing to carry out his policies. Ben Aharon was quoted as telling the Premier, "We came here to tell you to be strong. I am convinced that the party has no better people than you to lead the nation. I am sure that the decision to appoint you two years ago was the right one then and is right to this day."

Skeptical Of Public Show Of Support

However, yesterday some top level Labor Party leaders expressed criticism of the "support initiative." They wanted to know, for one thing, who decided who would be invited. Israel Kargman, a veteran of Labor's Mapai faction suggested that "people will think" that the party members who did not visit Rabin do not support

him.

Mordechai Ben Porat of Labor's Rafi wing, said he was not sorry to be among the uninvited because the meeting was "unimportant." He said he could understand that Labor MKs would support their party's leader but wondered why it was necessary for a delegation to visit the Premier simply to express their support. Other party figures were also skeptical of the need for a public demonstration of support for Rabin. Some claimed the participants in the meeting were "very carefully chosen."

Ms. Namir's response to the critics was not calculated to enhance Rabin's prestige as a leader. She was quoted as saying that the Premier was "unjustly" attacked on issues "which everybody knew he was not conversant with when he was elected."

She also observed that when Rabin was elevated to the Premiership "he had little or no" party background and "practically" no parliamentary experience. "But we did vote for him and we believe he is doing pretty well under the circumstances," she said. One who observed that with such compliments Rabin's critics could afford to remain silent.

9 MOSCOW JEWISH ACTIVISTS ASSAIL SHOOTING AT SOVIET UN MISSION

NEW YORK, April 5 (JTA)--Nine Moscow Jewish activists have condemned as a "terrorist act" the shots fired at the Soviet Mission to the United Nations last Friday, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported today. The NCSJ said the nine activists issued the following statement:

"We strongly condemn the attempt of the terrorist act committed by an extremist group against the Soviet UN Mission in New York. We find the use of terror as a method of political struggle to be morally unacceptable. To use such methods only means to come down to the level of the terrorists who are now participating in the sessions of the Security Council. We are confident that such actions would only harm the cause and struggle for the right of the Jewish people to live in their own country and for the right of the Jewish State of Israel to exist.

"Such actions constitute a danger for Soviet Jews as well, as they might be used by the authorities as a pretext for new repressions and for instigating anti-Semitic hostilities."

The statement, according to the NCSJ, was signed by Vitaly Rubin, Dina Beilina, Josef Beilin, Vladimir Slepak, Alexander Lerner, Anatoly Sharansky, Iosif Begun and Zeev Shakovsky.

DENIES KISSINGER WILL BE REPLACED

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA)--The White House today rejected a suggestion by Rogers C.B. Morton, President Ford's campaign manager, that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger probably will be replaced if Ford is elected in November. According to reports, Morton told a closed-door meeting of California Republicans in San Jose Saturday that Kissinger's removal at present would be "bad politics." Presidential news secretary Ron Nessen reminded reporters that Ford had said Kissinger "can stay on as long as he wants to" while, he said, "I am President." According to one report, Morton's remark that Kissinger might not be around long "brought the house down. That's what everybody wanted to hear."

BEHIND THE HEADLINE PUSHING 'NEW REALITIES'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 5 (JTA)--The more than 500 persons from throughout the country who gathered in the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel for the concluding session yesterday of the American Jewish Congress biennial convention treated the first Jewish Secretary of State's first meeting with a Jewish organization with appreciation and friendliness. They rose and applauded Henry A. Kissinger when he appeared and they duplicated the cordiality when he left.

When he emphasized his assurances of permanent American commitment to Israel he received warm applause but for most of his speech--billed in advance by the State Department as "not a major address"--they listened in silence.

Kissinger's schedule, it was said, did not permit questions afterwards unlike the practice in his numerous other recent appearances before private organizations. Later, an organization observer grown gray in the Washington scene, summarized this historic "first" this way: "Dr. Kissinger said nothing new. He spoke in generalities. Some things were good to hear, of course. What it boiled down to was 'trust me.'"

Another observer, noting the absence of any appeal to Israel's adversaries to recognize the "realities" of the Middle East that the Secretary and others consistently urge Israel to take into account, remarked: "Our Secretaries of State must be pro-Arab, not pro-Israel. Israel has never had a sympathetic Secretary of State since Cordell Hull. We must have faith Dr. Kissinger will squeeze Israel less than anybody else in his place."

Possible Reasons For Kissinger's Approach

Kissinger characteristically joked at the outset of his remarks. Exaggerating the old saw about differences among Jews, he chided Israel's three million people for having six million opinions, and he, as he has often done, ridiculed Israel's "wild" news correspondents "bound only by a common paranoia."

But his joking, perhaps not unintentionally, paralleled the burden of his formal remarks in that he asked Israel to cooperate with his policy and drop its suspicions about his intentions. Why Kissinger chose to accept this forum at this time led to conjecture.

The Presidential campaign was considered the principal reason, coming as it did less than 48 hours before the New York and Wisconsin primaries. Furthermore, he is booked for his second Jewish organizational appearance May 9 in Baltimore by the Conservative Chizuk Amuno Congregation a week before Maryland's primary in which Governor Marvin Mandel has endorsed Kissinger's arch-critic Sen. Henry M. Jackson for the Democratic nomination.

Others saw his appearance as less devoted to influencing the primaries than in laying the foundation for a "peace at hand" situation later in the general election period just as he did for President Nixon in October, 1972 when the Vietnam episode was uppermost on the international horizon.

In his last half-dozen appearances before Congress on Middle East matters, Kissinger has emerged as the Administration's main protagonist for Israel's requirements. Since he had been previously painted--especially during the post-

Yom Kippur War and "reassessment" periods--as the chief American architect behind the Arab advances and Israel's setbacks, his reassurances to Israel now are seen as softening Israel for the shocks that she is to endure while he is still in office.

The Flip Side Of U.S. Policy

The missing ingredient in his sophisticated mix of reassuring Israel while boosting the "moderate" Arab leaders is any definitive sign of Arab recognition of Israel--a conspicuous absence which caused many observers to see his whole Middle East policy sagging in the direction of Arab political scheming. While Kissinger is boosting Israel, others in the Ford Administration take a different tack.

Lending support to Arab government and anti-Israeli positions are the expressions of American representatives in the United Nations Security Council, the countenance of the Palestinian terrorists in Lebanon's agony, praise of Syria as it expands its influence, the end of the 20-year American military embargo to Egypt--neatly abetted by President Anwar Sadat's timing to end agreements with Moscow--the oblique assurance to visiting King Hussein of Jordan that East Jerusalem is really his by the display in the State Department's lobby of eight illustrations of holy places in a pictorial exhibit of "Jordan" that include the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock in East Jerusalem.

This seemingly orchestrated series of developments have taken place at the same time as developments inimical to Israel have taken place--developments that some think may have had manipulative origins.

These include the unrest on the West Bank and in Israel, the extension of the Arab boycott, the CIA leak of Israel's alleged nuclear weapons. Time magazine's report this week of Israel's arsenal of atomic bombs, the allegation attributed to the CIA that in another war Israel would lose 36,000 lives, and British writer Anthony Pearson's story in the current Penthouse magazine, "Israel's Secret Act of War Against America," which claims that Israel staged a deliberate attack on the spyship U.S.S. Liberty during the Six-Day War.

All these help fuel the theory that the parallelism of continued U.S. public espousal of support for Israel while propelling the advance of Arab political aims overtly and covertly give rise to expectations of a manufactured program of "new realities" that will, at the right moment in perhaps late summer or early autumn, bring a frightening crisis in the Middle East and move President Ford into the role of peacemaker on the basis of the old Rogers Plan and with the hoped-for result of a tidal wave of popularity that will sweep him--and Kissinger--into an election victory in November.

FRANK MAYER DEAD AT 74

BRUSSELS, April 5 (JTA)--Frank Mayer, Israeli Honorary Consul in Luxembourg and a prominent Zionist leader, died last week at the age of 74. Dr. Mayer was a former leader of the Jewish Students Union in pre-war Germany. Having settled in Luxembourg he was one of the founders of the Luxembourg-Israel Friendship Association, and served till his death as vice-president of the local Keren Kayemet branch.

There will be no Bulletin dated April 16 due to the Passover holiday.