



# daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL CONCERNED ABOUT MOUNTING WEAPONS FLOW INTO ARAB COUNTRIES

By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Arab countries have signed contracts for more than \$35 billion worth of arms since the Yom Kippur War and \$7 billion worth of those weapons have arrived in the Middle East, informed sources reported here today. Saudi Arabia's share reportedly is \$14 billion in weapons.

The mounting flow of weaponry, 66 percent ordered from Western countries, combined with recent moves toward greater cooperation among Arab confrontation states, is causing concern among Israeli officials. There are fears here that the growing Arab arsenals may encourage Arab leaders to think in terms of military options against Israel, the sources indicated.

The priorities the Arab states are applying in their purchases place air forces first, then anti-aircraft weapons and other air defense equipment then land force arms and finally maritime forces. Israeli officials are keeping close watch on the rapid military buildup, noting that it is being accompanied in recent months by highly visible efforts of Egypt to improve its strained relations with Syria and to strengthen ties with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Another reported source of concern to Israel is Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's continuing difficulties with his domestic economy. Israeli officials believe there are ominous parallels between Sadat's problems and those in Egypt when corruption, economic problems and an elephantine bureaucracy paved the way for the seizure of power by the late Gamel Abdel Nasser who became the leader of anti-Israel forces in the Arab world.

The sources recalled that Chief of Staff Mordechai Gur warned last Friday that there were dangers to Israel's security from the proximity of Saudi Arabian borders and shores to Israeli-held Eilat Gulf maritime lanes. Gur also stressed a greater immediate danger of Saudi Arabia placing its immense financial and military resources at the disposal of the Arab confrontation states, on the presumption that Saudi Arabia would prefer not to become involved in a direct confrontation with Israel.

## KISSINGER: U.S. VOTE FOR CONSENSUS STATEMENT IN UN REFLECTED AMERICAN POSITION SINCE THE SIX-DAY WAR

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said yesterday that the U.S. approved the censure of Israel's policies in the occupied Arab territories because it reflects America's position since the Six-Day War and because of pending developments at the United Nations. He expressed support of the Security Council's consensus statement, adopted unanimously last week, in response to a question from a delegate to the 22nd annual North Atlantic Assembly in Williamsburg, Va., where he had just given an address in support of NATO.

Kissinger was asked about the "cynical" be-

lief that the U.S. vote might have been different if the censure had come up before the Nov. 2 Presidential elections. He replied, "That belief is totally incorrect." He added that the U.S. had to take into consideration the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) mandate on the Golan Heights which expires Nov. 30 and the general debate on the Palestinian question in the General Assembly.

## Must Consider All Parties

"If we are to contribute to peace in the Middle East, we must be prepared to take into account the views of all parties," Kissinger said. The consensus statement, he continued, "sharply reflects" statements the U.S. itself has made over the past 10 years--since the 1967 war. He said the censure did not reflect a change in U.S. policy, observing that "we felt we had an obligation to go along with the consensus."

Kissinger also pointed out that the U.S. has cast seven vetoes of Security Council resolutions on Mideast issues alone. He noted that this is a period of "great uncertainty in the Middle East" and that it was "in the national interest and in the interest of peace in the Middle East that we voted for it" (the consensus statement). He said the U.S. would have voted for such a resolution last May if the Arabs had agreed to delete "two sentences" as they did in the consensus statement. He also pointed out that the statement does not have legal force.

Kissinger said the easing of Syrian-Egyptian tensions means progress "can again" be made "toward peace negotiations" and toward a general or preparatory conference in Geneva. He said European participation in the Middle East political process would depend on European-U.S. coordination.

Kissinger's references to the U.S. position over the past 10 years, some observers felt, appeared to reflect his thinking all along, since he became Secretary of State three years ago. It also seemed to buttress the view that the State Department believes a Mideast settlement must be along the lines of the Rogers plan.

## GOLDMANN TO HOLD TALKS WITH MOSCOW JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS ABOUT POSSIBLE RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET JEWS AND THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

By Edwin Eytan

GENEVA, Nov. 17 (JTA)--World Jewish Congress President Nahum Goldmann and representatives of the Moscow Jewish community are due to meet to discuss the possibilities of Soviet Jewish relations with the world organization. The WJC Governing Board last night authorized Goldmann to proceed with this meeting which will probably take place in Paris in a few weeks.

This decision was in response to a message received through Rumania's Chief Rabbi, Moses Rosen, from leaders of Jewish communities in the Soviet Union and in Poland seeking information on possible relations with the WJC. Rosen told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Jewish communal leaders from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland and Rumania met in

Bucharest last September and unanimously decided to seek closer relations with world Jewry.

Rosen wrote Goldmann a few days later to inform him of this request. It was only last night, after much soul-searching, that the Governing Board approved these exploratory talks. Several Board members apparently feared that a decision to meet and talk with representatives of the "official community" might weaken the fight of the Jewish activists in the Soviet Union.

#### Need To Encourage Soviet Jews

The Board was moved, however, by Rosen's plea which stressed that maintaining the Judaism of Soviet Jewry is a primary consideration. Rosen told the JTA that he explained to Board members that even if 100,000 Soviet Jews were to emigrate every year, the demographic growth of the community is such that "there will still be three and a half million left in ten years time."

Rosen stressed that these Jews should not be abandoned but should be encouraged to remain Jews. He also pointed to Rumania's example. "Our close relations with world Jewry has helped secure a legal emigration policy," he said. The Rumanian Chief Rabbi told the JTA that the Soviet Jewish decision to seek closer ties with world Jewry was taken with the full knowledge and the approval of the Soviet authorities.

Rosen added that the Soviet delegates seek in the first phase an observer status. He did not rule out, however, the possibility that closer ties will be sought at a later stage. Answering protests from some of the Board members as to the representative status of the official Moscow communal organization, Rosen said: "They (these members) now ask for free elections in Moscow as a precondition. How come they have not asked for similar elections in South Africa, Argentina or Chile?"

#### No Details On Talks

Goldmann, apparently deeply moved by the proposal, recalled that his first contacts with Soviet Jewry date from 1935. "This," he said, "is the first time that contacts will take place at Soviet initiative." He warned the Board that unless it approves the exploratory talks he might have to resign: "I shall find it difficult to remain president of an organization like the WJC which refuses contacts with any Jewish group."

Goldmann told the Board that other WJC leaders, apparently members of the Executive Board, will be present at the talks. He did not rule out the possibility of a WJC delegation visiting the Soviet Union at a future date for talks with both Jewish leaders and Soviet officials.

A WJC official press release stated last night only that "the Governing Board authorized Dr. Nahum Goldmann to seek exploratory talks with Soviet authorities and Jews in the Soviet Union about the possibilities of Soviet Jewish relations with the WJC." The communique gave no details as to when and how these talks will take place.

#### B'NAI B'RITH OFFICIALS HOLD 80-MINUTE MEETING WITH CEAUSESCU

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--A promise to spur tourism to Rumania, and an urgent plea for accelerated Jewish emigration, highlighted an 80-minute meeting in Bucharest earlier this month between President Nicolae Ceausescu and David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith.

Details of the meeting that took place Nov. 4 were disclosed yesterday in a report to B'nai

B'rith's Board of Governors. Blumberg, accompanied by his wife and Dr. William Korey, B'nai B'rith's director of international affairs, spent six days in Rumania at the invitation of its government.

Blumberg described the session with Ceausescu--an unusually long one between a "head of state and a nongovernmental representative--as "very cordial" and, for the most part, "focused on issues of concern to the Jewish community."

"President Ceausescu quite forcefully made evident Rumania's determination to maintain its independent foreign policy and to continue its good relations with Israel," Blumberg reported. He said that the Rumanian President "called for a peace settlement in the Middle East as a primary need, and one which would open the way to the solution of other international problems." It was "also satisfying" to be assured by Ceausescu and other officials of continued government support for Jewish cultural and religious institutions in the country, Blumberg said.

#### Concern Over Emigration Decline

But the B'nai B'rith leader added that he had told Ceausescu of "our concern and disappointment" over the diminishing rate of Jewish emigration--less than one-half of what it was in 1974--and that he "could not accept" Ceausescu's response that Rumania's Jewish community of some 60,000 had become "a shrinking base" for the number of Jews seeking to emigrate. "The evidence within the Rumanian Jewish community is otherwise," Blumberg declared.

He also cited, however, the "relative freedom" of Jewish communal life in Rumania in contrast to most other East European countries "as a very positive aspect, a tribute to Rabbi Moses Rosen as the communal leader, and a circumstance that encourages closer relationships between Western and Rumanian Jewry." In that respect, he said, B'nai B'rith would promote increased Jewish tourism to Rumania through its organizational travel programs, and "other forms of cultural exchange." Blumberg reported that U.S. Ambassador Harry Barnes participated in the meeting with Ceausescu.

#### EBAN CRITICIZES U.S. JEWS FOR DOING LITTLE TO BOOST ALIYA

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., Nov. 17 (JTA)--Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban of Israel said here yesterday that "American Jews are making practically no contribution to help Israel's demographic drought" by aliya, that they engaged in demonstrations as a substitute for solidarity and that they could do better in their financial support of Israel.

Eban voiced his criticism in an address to 2000 delegates attending the biennial convention of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism at the Concord Hotel here. He said the degree of solidarity of world Jewry, especially American Jewry, with Israel and its goals was central to Israel's capacity to remain strong and negotiate peace.

Eban said that in the area of aliya "American Jews are making practically no contribution to help Israel's demographic drought. We in Israel are simply not enough to insure our security, our culture, our industrial potential." He observed that American Jewish support through "demonstrations are not enough," adding that "sometimes they are used as a substitute for solidarity."

He acknowledged the financial support rendered Israel by American Jews but observed that "not one percent of the resources of American Jews goes to Israel annually."

Eban told his audience, "We in Israel cannot bear our burdens alone. What we have created in Israel we have created together with you and it is you who must help us sustain our burdens."

#### Developments In The Mideast

Speaking on the Middle East situation, the Israeli diplomat said there was a disposition on the part of some Arab states and Israel to explore an overall solution to the Mideast conflict in 1977. But he indicated that progress, if any, would be made only with the good offices of the U.S., which alone possesses the capacity for mutual communication with the parties concerned. He warned that a diplomatic vacuum invites military activity and therefore the friends of Israel should welcome the exploration of peace prospects.

Eban outlined areas of mutually acknowledged harmony in the vital interests of the U.S. and Israel. Among them, he said, are strong commitments to democracy and pluralism. He said that the U.S.-Israel partnership would remain strong despite attempts on the part of some to disrupt that relationship. He concluded his address on an optimistic note. "We are a people with a future even greater than its past," Eban declared.

#### SHARON: ISRAEL SHOULD GO TO GENEVA CONFAB WITH PLO PARTICIPATION

TEL AVIV, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Gen. Ariel Sharon said today that Israel should attend a reconvened Geneva peace conference with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. "I am for speaking with all Arabs," the former Likud leader told an audience in Jerusalem this afternoon. "I say that we have to fight Arab terrorism with all the forces we have. But now we can talk to the PLO. We need to talk to Arabs, including the PLO. We shall have no other way."

Sharon claimed that if Israel had fought terrorism by methods he once proposed "we might not have the PLO at all." He did not elaborate. But he warned that Israel was mistaken to assume that it can gain time now that the U.S. is preparing to install a new administration. "We should have prepared a plan for advancement toward peace and not sit and wait," he said.

The controversial Yom Kippur War hero announced at a press conference here yesterday that he was quitting Likud and would form a new party to stand in next year's elections. According to foreign press reports, he met later with foreign newsmen and told them: "We talked with the Germans after they exterminated six million of our brethren, we talked with Syria after they tortured our prisoners. Why shouldn't we talk with the Palestinians? We don't have to exclude anyone."

#### PLO OFFICIAL SAYS HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE JEWISH STATE 'DISAPPEAR'

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Nov. 17 (JTA)--The Palestine Liberation Organization is still dedicated to the destruction of Israel as a state, the PLO's London representative affirmed here this week.

Interviewed in the magazine, "Evening," Said Hammami added that he did not mean Israel's "destruction by massacre" but "I would love this state to disappear. Nothing would make me happier if, instead, there were one united secular

state of Palestine in which all Jews and Arabs coexist in a one-man, one-vote system. That is what Palestinians dream of--all of us."

While expressing conviction that there would be another Middle East war--"although I cannot prophesy the date"--Hammami said the alternative was negotiation. "However, real negotiation appears to be impossible, at least for as long as Israel refuses to sit down with the PLO, and the Arab states insist that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians," he said.

Hammami was sure that the Arab states would never ditch the PLO and appoint Palestinian spokesmen acceptable to Israel to get the Geneva conference moving again. "There is no serious challenge to Yasir Arafat or to the PLO. The PLO is generally accepted by the masses. The PLO and the people are one and indivisible," he said.

#### Lebanese Editor Slams PLO

However, the magazine's editor, Lebanese publisher Salim al-Lozi, does not share Hammami's confidence about Arafat. In a long editorial, he criticizes the PLO's involvement in the Lebanese civil war and concludes:

"History is full of examples of just causes lost by those who did not know how to win them. Haj Amin el Hussein, Mufti of Jerusalem, headed the struggle for Palestine for 15 years. For many years after he remained the only Palestinian hero until the advent of Yasir Arafat, who wrenched the flag of the struggle for Palestine from his hands. How long will Yasir Arafat remain leader, now that the cycle has ended?" he asked.

#### MAARIV STORY CALLED NONSENSE

NEW YORK, Nov. 17 (JTA)--Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization, characterized as "absolute nonsense and made out of whole cloth" a report in today's edition of Maariv that Israel scuttled a meeting between her and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. According to Maariv, another participant in the so-called meeting was to have been Rabbi Alexander Schindler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Schindler is out of the country and not available for comment.

The Maariv story claimed that Sadat twice consented in recent months to meet with senior American Jewish leaders in Cairo after it had been arranged by Austria's Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. The paper, which quoted American Jewish sources, said Kreisky first obtained Israel's agreement to the meeting but later Israel reversed its stand. Political circles in Jerusalem had no comment on Maariv's story.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Israeli security forces uncovered two El Fatah terrorist cells in the Judeaea region. One cell was active in a village near Bethlehem and the other near Hebron. Thirty-eight suspected terrorists were detained and large quantities of arms, hand grenades and explosives were found in their possession. The cells are believed responsible for several acts of sabotage, including the launching of Katyusha rockets at Kiryat Arba earlier this year.

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Reminder: There will be no Bulletin dated Nov. 25 due to Thanksgiving, a postal holiday.

