OPIRdaily news builletin

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

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XLIV - 60th Year

Tuesday, April 19, 1977

No. 75

ALLON SAYS GENEVA TALKS MIGHT RESUME THIS YEAR, IF ONLY BRIEFLY By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, April 18 (JTA)--Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said here today that the Geneva Middle East peace conference might reconvene this year, if only briefly and said he was "confident such a conference can make fresh progress toward peace in the area." Allon also told a press conference that Israel has warned Syrian forces in Lebanon and the PLO not to persecute that country's Christian minority.

"I have already expressed our views on this issue and take this opportunity to do so again," he said, adding, "I don't think I have to spell out our plans in advance and I hope words can be

more effective than guns."

Allon stopped off in Paris on his way home after attending a conference of Socialist party leaders in Amsterdam over the weekend. He met with French Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud and their discussions reportedly centered on recent developments in Africa, especially the invasion of Zaire by forces from neighboring Angola.

French sources said de Guiringaud agreed with Allon's assessment that foreign intervention in Africa, such as the use of Cuban troops by Angola, endangered the peace of the continent and the world at large. The two ministers also discussed the situation in southern Lebanon. Allon stressed that Israel had no territorial ambitions in that area but would protect its security if threatened.

The French and Israeli Foreign Ministers have met several times in the last few weeks. De. Guiringaud visited Israel last month. But they used the occasion of Allon's stopover in Paris to continue their consultations, probably as a sign of the trend toward normalization of Franco-Israeli relations.

Last night Allon dined with former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France at the home of the Israeli Ambassador Mordechai Gazit. They were reported to have reviewed the Middle East situation. Another reason for Allon's visit to Paris was to promote his new book, "Israel: The Struggle For Hope."

NO BASIS TO REPORTS THAT USSR IS SEEKING TO RENEW TIES WITH ISRAEL By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--Reports that the Soviet Union was making certain moves to-ward the eventual re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel were said to be without substance at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Shlomo Avineri, director general of the Foreign Ministry reported in fact that Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko told U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at their recent meeting in Moscow that the Soviet Union planned no change in its attitude toward Israel.

(In Washington today, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said he had no information on Gromyko's alleged remark to Vance. "All I can say is that it is a matter between the two countries," he said.) Avineri made the disclosure after Health Minister Victor Shemtov of Mapam proposed that Israel approach the Soviets with an offer to restore diplomatic ties. Defense Minister Shimon Peres appeared to be making a similar proposal in a newspaper interview published last Friday. But Peres was silent on the subject at the Cabinet meeting. Avineri noted that recent Soviet public statements on the Middle East have been less abrasive toward Israel than in the past. Newspapers here reported from Washington that American officials expected a Russian move aimed at normalizing relations with Israel.

Avineri said that the U.S. reacted favorably to Israel's tough warnings to Syria and the PLO last week to end their attacks on Christian strongholds in southern Lebanon. He said Washington believed the Israeli stance influenced the Syrians to impose restraints on the Palestinian terrorists with the result that the region has been relatively quiet in recent days.

MERCHANT MARINE PARALYZED BY STRIKE
28 Israel Flag Ships Are Idled
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--Israel's merchant marine was paralyzed today by a continuing strike by licensed officers. The strike was condemned at yesterday's Cabinet meeting and Histadrut has withdrawn recognition of the union involved. But there was no sign of a settlement. There are 28 Israel flag ships idle at Israel's ports and today a Liberian flag freighter operated by the Zim Israel Navigation Co. was prevented from sailing from Haifa because the harbor pilots complied with the officers' demands not to move her.

The officers are demanding wage increases and insist that the shipping companies sign International Federation of Transport Workers (ITF) contracts. The shipping companies, for their part, want a no-strike guarantee, noting that there have been 50 strikes in the merchant marine during the past four years. The consequences of the present tie-up could mean the end of Israel's merchant marine, one of the country's leading foreign currency earners.

Economic analysts said that if the ships cannot be operated they would have to be sold since neither the government nor the shipping lines could absorb the costs of prolonged lay-up. The Zim Lines, Israel's largest shipping company, which is government-owned, says it has lost \$1 million so far due to the strike. The smaller, privately-owned El Yam company has lost \$150,000.

Yehuda Rotem, director general of the Zim Lines, said today that the company would have to shut down its far-flung container services within three days if the strike did not end.

Severe Loss To Economy

Of immediate concern to the shippers is the fact that some of the idle vessels are occupying space on the quays needed by incoming foreign ships. The National Shipping Bureau said that if the quays are not made available, inbound

cargoes would have to be dumped at foreign ports.

According to Arye Mehullal, director of the Marine Transport Users Association, 'half of Israel's foreign trade is already paralyzed." He said the organization might call on the foreign freight conferences to increase their services to Israel to replace idle Israeli vessels. This would mean a severe loss to the country's economy. The economy sustained heavy losses last month when a wildcat strike by longshoremen at Haifa, Ashdod and Eilat forced a week-long halt to citrus export shipments.

Meanwhile, the officers have placed Israeli ships at overseas ports on strike notice. Local shipping circles fear that the harbor pilots may join the officers in a sympathy strike which would close Israel's ports to all vessels. The Knesset will discuss the situation at a special recess session tomorrow called for by Likud.

Other Strikes On, Pending

The merchant marine strike is currently the worst labor dispute but not the only one plagueing Israel's battered economy. Doctors at Kupat Holim clinics stayed off the job yesterday to support demands for higher wages. They threatened a general strike for next Sunday if no settlement is reached.

The Technical Workers Union is threatening a general strike Thursday and employes of the Ministry of Agriculture are also reported to be planning a strike. Government-employed psychologists say they will begin a work slowdown. The Tel Aviv fire brigade announced a labor dispute and El Al ground crews are threatening to strike for an 18 percent wage increase.

A strike by El Al flight attendants prevented a jumbo jet from embarking passengers for Montreal this morning. The jumbo took off empty for Canada to pick up passengers booked on the return flight and its own outgoing passengers were transferred to other air lines. The flight attendants are demanding larger crews on the Montreal route. The El Al management has refused.

So far, the government has been powerless to end these and other labor disputes except by giving in to workers' demands which all economists agree will only fuel inflation. The Ministerial Wage Committee agreed yesterday to a five percent wage hike for industrial workers in the pub- television interview show broadcast tonight in lic sector. Only recently the government had condemned a similar increase granted to workers in Histadrut-owned industries. Private employers have stood fast against further wage hikes but they face possible strikes by workers demanding equal treatment with the public employes!

RABIN TO BEGIN VACATION THIS WEEK By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aprik 18 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin presided at his last Cabinet meeting yesterday before taking a leave of absence and naming Defense Minister Shimon Peres to serve as Acting Premier in his stead. The Premier will officially start his vacation next Friday, after Israel's Independence Day celebrations. He is expected to remain at his Tel Aviv home and will be briefed on affairs of state.

At the Cabinet session, Rabin reviewed U.S.-Israeli relations with emphasis on the new role that Egypt is playing in Africa as a buffer against Soviet ambitions on that continent. According to Rabin, who met with President Carter and top U.S. officials in Washington last month, the U.S.

attaches considerable importance to Egypt's'. 180 degree turn--from a spearhead of Soviet influence in Africa to a champion of Western interests there.

The immediate effect of the turn-about was the affirmative replies Egyptian President Anwar Sadat received when he visited Washington this month to his requests for American arms--ostensibly to defend Egypt against threats in Africa rather than for use against Israel, Rabin said. In the long run he thought this could affect the Arab-Israel conflict but he did not elaborate.

Basic U.S.-Israel Understanding

Rabin said there was a basic understanding between Israel and the U.S. on the Palestinian issue and on the nature of a future Middle East peace. The main differences, he said, were over America's basic support for Israel's pre-June 1967 borders "with minor adjustments." He said American support for "defensible borders," stated by President Carter, has not yet been made clear. According to Rabin, the U.S. wants to reach an overall settlement in the Middle East within a period of 4-8 years "and perhaps longer.''

Rabin announced at the beginning of the session that he was going on leave, starting Friday. There was no further discussion of the subject. He announced last Thursday that he would hold a series of meetings with Peres who was elected leader of the Labor Party after Rabin resigned that post. He said the meetings were to help Peres gradually take over the functions of Premier. While Rabin is on leave, Peres intends to run the government from Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv rather than from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

BROWN SAYS U.S. CONSIDERING SADAT'S REQUEST FOR U.S. MILITARY HARDWARE By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 18 (JTA) -- The United States is "considering the approaches" made by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat for American military supplies but has "not reached a conclusion on these yet," Secretary of Defense Harold Brown said on the "Agronsky at Large" New York on Channel 13 and last Friday night in Washington on Channel 26.

Brown's comment came in response to a question from interviewer Martin Agronsky on whether the U.S. will give Sadat "any substantial number of weapons." Sadat has been reported as seeking 250 F-5E warplanes, a twoseater aircraft that carries two Sidewinder missiles and has a range of up to 1300 miles.

Sadat, Agronsky said to Brown, is "playing 'the Russians are coming''' game in saying to the U.S. "give me arms to meet the threat, the Libyan threat backed by the Soviet Union. Don't give me arms so much to meet Israel's threat."

In the interview, a transcript of which was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Brown replied that Sadat told him during his Washington visit that there were "potential security threats through Africa." Brown said he was interested "to see the President of Egypt had a strategic concept that encompassed Africa as well as the Mideast and I think it was very useful to me and other members of our government to hear the way he viewed some of these

Will Not Fire Gen. Brown

Agronsky also asked Brown "Why don't you fire". Air Force General George Brown who has been since 1974 "suffering from what many of his critics describe as foot in mouth disease." Agronsky recalled the comments by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding American Jews, Israel, the British and "now telling the Congress" it "must not kibitz in our foreign policy."

Secretary Brown's reply was that he had indicated before becoming Secretary that "I would judge General Brown by his performance in a professional, military capacity." Asked whether that judgement would remain "no matter" what the General says, Brown said he is "going to continue to judge him on his professional abilities" and "I would certainly not bust a General down to Private for saying that people should be allowed to say what they want."

JEWISH HERITAGE WEEK LAUNCHED JTA, Jewish News Media In N.Y. Get 'Partner In Education' Award By David Friedman

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA) -- The New York Board of Education today launched its first Jewish Heritage Week with a program of drawings, songs, music, readings and dance by school children. The program took place at the Board's headquarters in Brooklyn.

Richard Ravitch, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which had been instrumental in getting the Board to establish the week, told some 100 persons attending the ceremony that the experiences of Jews in New York City will be of benefit to newer immigrant groups to the city. He said he hopes that weeks such as this will foster better understanding between the various groups that make up the city.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, along with a number of other Jewish news media in New York, was given by the JCRC and the Board of Education a "Partner in Education" award "for leadership and support, and for contributions of effort, skill, and knowledge to benefit students of the New York City public schools." Malcolm Hoenlein, JCRC executive director, in presenting the award, noted the importance of the JTA and other Jewish news media in transmitting Jewish heritage.

Eli Zborowski, honorary president of the American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi victims, presented the Board with a series of 80 photographs from the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem of the period 1933-45. He urged the educators present to teach children about what racism, discrimination and anti-Semitism can do so that when they grow up they can prevent the Holocaust from happening again.

Lesson Of The Holocaust

Robert J. Christen, president of the Board of Education, said the lesson of the Holocaust is a recognition of the common humanity of all. School Chancellor Irving Anker said that New York is made up of "the rejects of the world" who showed they could flourish in freedom.

Brooklyn District Attorney Eugene Gold, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, told the gathering that Soviet Jews are the new ghetto fighters who fight with their spirit

against the threat of cultural genocide. Ilya Zlobinsky, a Kiev engineer who immigrated to Israel a year ago, said Jews are not only facing cultural annihilation in the USSR but are now also facing physical danger as official Soviet anti-Semitism has increased.

In addition to the JTA, Hoenlein also presented "Partner in Education" awards to the Allgemeine Journal, the Jewish Daily Forward, the Jewish Journal, the Jewish Press, Jewish Student Press Association, and Radio Station WEVD. Awards were also presented to the Jewish Labor Committee and the Board of Jewish Education of New York, two groups that have helped establish Jewish Heritage Week.

KAHANE IN NABLUS

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the Jewish Defense League, almost provoked a bloody incident in Nablus yesterday when he turned up at the town hall, demanded to see the Mayor and tried to affix a mezuzah to the door of the municipality building. Kahane was accompanied by five armed body-guards who drew pistols at one point. But no shots were fired and no blows were struck. Mayor Bassam Shaka has protested to Israeli authorities. No Israeli soldiers were in sight during the incident.

Kahane, who is running for the Knesset on the "Kach" (Thus) list, told Arab guards at the town hall that he wanted to "discuss future relations" with the Mayor because he planned to found a Jewish town adjacent to Nablus. He harangued the guards in Hebrew about the Jewish right to return to the region after 2000 years. The guards claimed they did not understand Hebrew but Kahane persisted. When he tried to place the mezuzah on the door there were loud protests at which point Kahane's men pulled their guns.

The JDL leader eventually left the town hall and decided, apparently on the advice of his bodyguards; not to tour the streets and alleys of the Arab town where the mood was obviously bitter

The West Bank military authorities were criticized today for doing nothing to prevent Kahane from making trouble at Nablus. The Jerusalem Post said editorially the authorities inaction was "a mystery" -- especially since Kahane had trumpeted his plan to go to Nablus well in advance. The paper said the authorities had in effect "thrown the area open for the incitement of Meir Kahane" who was obviously out to "create" events in order to get election publicity.

GROOVING THE ENTEBBE RESCUE

pany is putting out this week a new record called "Yonatan Victory March" to coincide with the Independence Day celebrations. Written by Ben Reuven, a young immigrant from England and sung in Hebrew and English by the Israeli group, the Black Diamonds, the record celebrates Israel's rescue mission at Uganda's Entebbe Airport last year. The company, Good Times Ltd., said that it has the permission of the parents of Yonatan Netanyahu, the Israeli major killed leading the Entebbe mission to use his name and picture. Part of the proceeds will go to the Israel Defense Force's voluntary fund.

THOUSANDS OF N.Y. POLICY HOLDERS IN DANGER BECAUSE THEIR INSURANCE FIRMS ARE ON ARAB BLACKLIST

NEW YORK, April 18 (JTA)—The Arab black-listing of 12 insurance companies chartered or licensed to do business in New York State threatens the financial security of tens of thousands of New Yorkers who hold policies issued by these companies, the American Jewish Congress charged. The warning was contained in a letter to New York State Superintendent of Insurance Thomas Harnett made public yesterday at a meeting of the organization's policy-making National Governing Council.

Jack M. Elkin, chairman of the AJCongress' New York Metropolitan Council, urged Harnett to move promptly to protect policy-holders of 12 insurance companies named on a blacklist prepared by Saudi Arabia. The Saudi blacklist is regarded as the most authoritative compilation of American and other companies barred from

doing business with the Arab world.

The 12 companies barred from insuring Arab cargoes shipped from New York are: Citadel Life Insurance Co. of New York; The Home Insurance Co.; Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co.; New England Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Penn Mutual Life Insurance; Phoenix Assurance Co.; State Mutual Life Assurance Co. of America; Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co.; Connecticut General Life Insurance Co.; Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York; Provident Mutual Life Insurance of Philadelphia; and Aetna Life & Casualty, Hartford, Connecticut.

Nine Additional Firms Listed

In addition to these 12, nine other insurance companies chartered by or doing business in New York were identified by name in a document issued last year by the Doha office of the First National City Bank in the Arab oil-producing state of Qatar, Elkin wrote. The document, on the bank's letterhead in Qatar, said:

ies listed below are blacklisted by the Israel (sic) Boycott Offices and in consequence no insurance policies or certificates issued by them can be accepted by us. This list therefore forms an integral part of the terms of our above-mentioned

credit."

The nine additional companies listed by the Qatar branch of the First National City Bank are: Brager & Co. (Harry Brager Co.); Cross Country Life Insurance Co.; Keck M. & Co., Inc.; Monarch Fire Insurance Co.; The American Road Insurance Co.; Fidelity General Life Insurance Co.; Ford Life Insurance Co.; Merit, Chapman & Scott Corp.; and The Aetna Casualty & Surety Co., Hartford, Conn.

Banks As Boycott 'Enforcers'

In his letter to Harnett, Elkin declared: "The letters of credit issued by buyers in Qatar who blacklist the insurance companies named above are processed by New York banks. These banks serve as 'enforcers' of the blacklist by refusing payment against letters of credit issued by Arab buyers unless the American shipper certifies that the ordered goods were not insured by a blacklisted company.

"The use of such a blacklist is not merely repugnant to American principles of free trade and non-discrimination; it is also a direct threat to the solvency of insurance companies regulated by you, directly affecting their financial health

and thus jeopardizing the financial security of tens of thousands of citizens of this state who hold policies issued by these companies."

In addition to the First National City Bank, Elkin said the following New York banks were identified by the House Committee on Government Operations on Sept. 23, 1976, as processing such letters of credit: Manufacturers Haneover Trust Co., Bankers Trust Co., Chemical Bank, Irving Trust Co., Morgan Guaranty Trust Co., European-American Bank and Trust Co. Elkin said he had written Harnett on March 28. No acknowledgement or reply has yet been received, he said.

PÉRES TO UJA: ISRAEL'S GOAL BY YEAR 2000 IS TO HAVE 6 MILLION JEWS

"JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA) -- "We shall march forward together with you so as to attain, in the year 2000, a country of six million Jews, with a firm and sound economic infrastructure and with a political and social future guaranteed for our coming generations." This was the message that Shimon Peres delivered last Friday to a delegation of visiting representatives of local organizations of the United Jewish Appeal.

In a remark plainly intended for Washington ears, Peres said Israel would do a.! it could to prevent the upcoming negotiations from failing. He hoped that if the talks were carefully prepared beforehand they would meet with success. Speaking of President Carter he said that while in the eyes of the American people the President was from the south, in the eyes of Israelis his origins were from the Bible. He was spiritually permeated with the books of the Prophets, the new Labor Party leader said.

ISRAELI LEGAL OBSERVER TO BE AT TRIAL OF MAIDANEK CAMP GUARDS

JERUSALEM, April 18 (JTA)--Israel will send a government legal expert to serve as an observer at the ongoing trial of Maidanek concentration camp guards in West Germany, it was announced at yesterday's Cabinet meeting. Shlomo Avineri, director general of the Foreign Ministry, said the impression here is that the trial was being drawn out needlessly. It has been in progress for several years.

The prolongation of the Maidanek war crimes trial apparently motivated the seizure of part of the West German Embassy building in Tel Aviv last Thursday by two armed men wearing the yellow Star of David, emblem of concentration camp inmates. They were identified as Henri Toronczik, 34, a Holocaust survivor and Andre Kilczinski, 40, a Ploish convert to Judaism.

They used the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day to lock themselves in on the second floor of the Embassy where they remained for 6 1/2 hours. They threatened to use their guns and grenades if police tried to evacuate them. They said they were protesting "because we believe the world is indifferent to what happened to the Jewish people and to what is happening in Germany today." The men left the Embassy as they had promised when Holocaust Remembrance Day officially ended.

BRUSSELS (JTA)--The European Economic Community Commission will take part at the International Book Fair in Jerusalem this month, the first time the EEC has done so.