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US SOURCES FEAR SYRIANS KILLED ALL PRISONERS OF YOM KIPPUR WAR

GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE ADJOURNS TO AFTER ISRAELI ELECTIONS DEC. 31

GENEVA (WNS) -- After weeks of gloom over whether the Geneva peace conference would even be held there was an air of optimism on the eve of the formal opening of the conference.

The five participating foreign ministers and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim all arrived in Geneva and began a series of private talks before the official opening.

Only Syria has announced that it will not attend avoiding a clash with Israel which has refused to negotiate with Syria until it releases the names of Israeli prisoners of war it holds and allows representatives of the International Red Cross to visit them.

The conference opened with speeches by the two co-hosts, U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko followed by the foreign minister of Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban on arrival in Geneva said "Israel has come to seek peace with honor to our neighbors."

Israel has sent a team of well-known professors, many of them doves, to explain its position to newsmen and diplomats here. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmi said his country is seeking "a durable peace" as

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WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Syria's refusal to release a list of Israeli prisoners of war or let International Red Cross representatives visit the camp may be due to the fact that they are trying to cover up that all Israeli captured in the Yom Kippur War were killed.

This was the view expressed by sources at the Pentagon. At the State Department spokesman Paul Hare said that the department has received reports that the Syrians murdered all Israeli prisoners but could not confirm it.

Meanwhile according to unofficial reports from Damascus the Syrians claimed that Israeli POWs were killed by Moroccan and Iraqi troops in Syria and that some Syrian soldiers were themselves killed in trying to protect the Israelis.

But sources in Israel believe most of the POWs are still alive although they have proof that prisoners were murdered at the outset of the Yom Kippur War.

In Jerusalem, Premier Golda Meir told the Knesset that Israel made numerous approaches and proposals to the Syrian Government including offering the repatriation of 15,000 Syrians to areas captured by Israel during the Yom Kippur war but were repeatedly rebuffed.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger was told by the Syrian President that the prisoners were "well treated" but this did not reassure

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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Monday Morning Quarterback

Since the ceasefire of the Yom Kippur War and since the start of the Arab oil embargo, enough time has elapsed to formulate reasonable perspectives of the consequences.

As far as the war itself is concerned there are some aspects that have been conclusively determined and others that require further investigation. The extent of the query into Israeli defenses being caught flat-footed at the outbreak of the war, will depend on the result of Dec. 31 elections.

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has brought the war to a successful conclusion for Israel, but his political future will be determined by the weight of Justice Minister Yaacov Shapiro's accusation of non-preparation two days before the war.

The plight of Israelis captured by the Syrians is a big question mark. If it is determined, as rumors persist, that Syria tortured and killed every POW, we shudder to think of the consequences. The Jew in Israel is no longer in the class of turning the other cheek. The citizens of Israel will not be content to wait for "Nuremberg" trials to punish the perpetrators of contemptible offenses. If Syrians want to exist in this world and wage wars, they will have to abide by the international rules of law.

We do not believe that an enraged populace of a proud nation like Israel will quietly allow heinous crimes against civilization to go without punishment. Not in this day and age.

Now we come to what the Yom Kippur War has firmly established.

We know that Israel is ready, willing and able to stand up against any intrusion by her Arab neighbors. Israel had complete control of the skies. No: a single plane penetrated over Israeli cities.

When Israeli planes were frustrated by the Sam rocket emplacements, the strategy was a breakthrough into the Egyptian side of the Suez Canal to silence the Sams. The Israeli Navy, untested to date, had complete dominance of the waterways.

There was not a single iota of dimishment of patriotism or national spirit among Israeli population. Everyone pitched in an all did their utmost. Even crimes fell off more than 50 per cent. Criminals were in the army or engaged in the war effort. Passengers informed new bus drivers the route. The only calamity of the blackout was a shortage of eggs, which had to be imported. Chickens need light for laying.

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YAHREZITS TONIGHT AT BETH SHOLOM

(Friday, Dec. 28, 1973)

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y....ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY HOUSEWIVES PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND STUDENTS CHAINED THEMSELVES TO THE GATES BEFORE THE UN ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE PLIGHT OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS WHO ARE EITHER MISSING IN ACTION OR PRISONERS OF WAR IN SYRIA. FAYE L. SCHENK, NATIONAL CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION IS AT RIGHT.