

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TORONTO (WNS) -- Boris Laskin, 61, who in 1970 became the first Jewish member of the Canadian Supreme Court, has been appointed chief justice of Canada.

TEL. AVIV (WNS) -- Libya now only has about 25 Jews, according to Alfonso Pagni, a Libyan Jew who recently smuggled himself out of Libya.

PARIS (WNS) -- A French journalist considered to be pro-Arab has written an article here saying he spoke with seven Israeli prisoners of war in Syria and found them in good health and well treated.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has called for an increase in new settlements as the only way to determine Israel's borders.

TEL. AVIV (WNS) -- Israel, fearing that Syria and Egypt may use chemical warfare in the next round of fighting, has ordered its soldiers to shave off beards so that they can don gas masks.

LONDON (WNS) -- Scotland Yard is questioning an American girl from Los Angeles and five Arabs in connection with the shooting of J. Edward Steff, president of Marks and Spencer and a leading Zionist in Britain.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan talked with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger about disengagement of Israeli and Egyptian forces and with Defense Secretary James F. Schlesinger about arms purchases.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Grigory Svehichin, a Moscow activist and engineer has been given an exit visa to Israel, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported.

BUDAPEST (WNS) -- The Jewish community marked the 25th anniversary of the written agreement between it and the government with a solemn meeting here. Istvan Ballo, deputy leader of the Hungarian office for church affairs, reminded the gathering that 25 years ago the government granted the Jewish community the same rights as the Christian churches.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef has disclosed that he set up a special rabbinic court two months ago in order to prevent the Yom Kippur War from leaving any 'agunot' -- women whose husbands are missing and may not remarry under Jewish religious law. The court, which meets twice a week, examines the files of each missing soldier and when it is duly satisfied that he can be halachically proven dead, it pronounces him officially dead, and his widow may marry again.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Two new stamps honoring the late Shmuel Yosef Agnon, -- honoring the late Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Israel's Nobel Prize-winning author, -- has been issued by the Jewish National Fund.

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porary conditions, if a general war occurred the world would never recover.
He noted that the result of those efforts was the cease-fire of October 22nd; the Six-Point Agreement signed in November, and the Geneva Peace Conference.

In his 65-minute news conference, Dr. Kissinger observed that it's the beginning of what will be a slow and agonizing effort to reconcile objectives that in many respects seem contradictory. "But the U.S. is committed to making a major effort to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Mideast, that recognizes the security of all the countries in the Mideast--as well as the legitimate aspirations of all of the peoples in the area," he said. "We believe the conference is well launched and we hope that some progress can be made in the disengagement talks between Egypt and Israel--and that could go on between Israel and the other Arab countries."

Dr. Kissinger pointed out that the war in the Mideast also brought to a head the energy crisis on a global basis... "but it did not cause it."

"The basic cause is that demand for energy has been growing exponentially while the incentives for supply haven't kept pace--and in these conditions, sooner or later, the energy-consuming countries would have come up against the situation where their demand far outstripped the possibilities of supply."

As for Soviet objectives in the Mideast, he said there are two schools of thought: that the Soviet Union has an interest in maintaining the tension because that'll guarantee permanent Arab hostility to the U.S., and enhances the possibilities of Soviet influence; and/or that while this may have started out to be the Soviet policy in the 1950's, there have been since then three wars which have consumed a great deal of Soviet resources and whose outcome has been inconclusive.

"It has been demonstrated that the conflict in the Mideast can bring the superpowers into positions of potential confrontation; and it is possible that the Soviet Union now has an interest in contributing to the stabilization of the situation in an area which neither super-

power can really control by itself," he said. He went on to say that the U.S. will deal with the Soviet Union as long as its actions are consistent with the second interpretation. "If the Soviet Union makes a responsible contribution to peace in the Mideast, we'll be prepared to cooperate--not at the expense of our traditional friends nor by imposing a settlement made together with the Soviet Union," he stressed. "We are in direct contact with all parties in the Mideast. But we're prepared to deal with the Soviet Union on an equitable basis as long as its motives and actions are consistent with a responsible course."

"Should Soviet behavior change, we can always re-examine our policy...."

The Secretary of State said that one of the results of the two trips he made into the Mideast is that Israel, Egypt and Jordan now have a much clearer common understanding of what is necessary to bring about peace in the area.

"They are now talking from a common base," he said.


With respect to the Israeli prisoners in Syria, Dr. Kissinger said the U.S. has strongly supported their release and the provision of lists to the Israelis.

"It's not correct, as has been pointed out, that we promised this as a condition of the cease-fire, though we did indicate that we had been given to understand that a major effort would be made after Israel had already accepted the cease-fire," he said. He added that he has no information that would indicate that they aren't alive.

Asked what concessions he expected Israel to make at the Geneva talks, he replied: "We aren't approaching the problem of negotiations by drawing up a list of concessions either side should make. We have attempted to discover, as honestly as we could, on the Mideast trips, what the minimum requirements of each side were and then attempt to bring these into some relation to each other."

"To the extent that the parties have talked to each other, as the Egyptians and Israelis have on Kilometer 101, some reapproachment has developed out of the process of negotiations; but we aren't starting with an abstract list of concessions which we are then asking any country to make...."

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