

POST WAR BELT TIGHTENING IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Introducing an IL 11.3 billion supplementary budget to cover the war costs, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir told the Knesset that a period of belt tightening lays ahead of the nation because "economically we are still in a state of war."

Sapir had earlier told the Knesset that the additional funds would barely begin to cover the cost of replenishing arms stocks, wages to reserve soldiers and compensation for bereaved families which will run into the tens of billions of pounds.

The total defense budget of IL 16.7 billion is now 50 percent of the national budget as compared to 30 percent before the war. Defense now consumes 40 percent of the Gross National Product, Sapir noted, as compared to 18 percent before the Yom Kippur War.

Sapir's remarks came a day after the Cabinet decided to cut by more than half the government's price support subsidies for essential products sending the prices of such essentials as bread, butter, margarine, oil, eggs, sugar and milk soaring. The hikes were unparalleled in Israel's economic life.

In addition, public transportation is scheduled to cost 50 percent more within two weeks and other price hikes are expected. The government is trying to cushion the higher prices by paying its employees an additional 4 percent cost of living allowance and urged private employers to do the same. Families with more than two children, pensioners, and families on social welfare will receive increased grants.

The Central Bureau of Statistics said that the immediate consequence of the food price hikes was to raise to the cost of living by 4.2 percent. But housewives found food prices on individual items raised as high as 80 percent. Meanwhile the Histadrut is demanding that the government pay a larger cost of living allowance than the four percent. But employers are balking and have charged that the 4 percent COL increase would strengthen inflationary trends.



TWENTY-SIX YEAR OLD ALEKSANDRE FELDMAN OF KIEV WAS RECENTLY SENTENCED TO THREE AND A HALF YEARS IN A SOVIET LABOR CAMP ON CHARGES OF "MALICIOUS HOOLIGANISM." FELDMAN IS THE LATEST VICTIM OF A SERIES OF TRIALS OF JEWISH ACTIVISTS IN THE U.S.S.R.

CHARGES OF SOVIET COURT FRAUD

NEW YORK (WNS)-- A document smuggled out of the Soviet Union charges that the Soviet government railroaded Aleksandr Feldman in sentencing him to 3 1/2 years of hard labor.

The document, smuggled out by City Council president Paul O'Dwyer and Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, is the court brief of I.S. Ezhov, lawyer for the 26-year-old Jewish engineer from Kiev. In the brief made public by the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, Ezhov said he "considered the verdict as incorrect" and declared "Feldman's explanations are not

groundless, while the testimony of his opponents arouse doubt."

FIRST WITHDRAWAL PHASE COMPLETED

TEL AVIV (WNS)-- Israeli forces completed the first phase of their withdrawal from the west bank of the Suez Canal, occupying a new line north of the Suez Cairo road.

The evacuated areas was formally turned over to the United Nations Emergency Force which in turn handed it over to the Egyptians.

Israel's promise not to engage in a scorched earth policy did not apply to military installations with soldiers carrying off war booty while non-movable installations and equipment were blown up. Before leaving the town of Suez, an Israeli paratrooper left a message for the Egyptians

on a large building which said "Make peace not war."

The soldiers of the Egyptian Third Army, freed from three months of encirclement by the Israelis, fired weapons into the air and shot off fireworks.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials have noticed no sign of the Egyptians carrying out their part of the disengagement agreement which is the thinning out of troops and heavy equipment.. Unless Egypt does so Israel will not start the second phase of its pull back.

In Jerusalem, Gen.. Ensio Siilasvuo, UNEF commander, told news men the first phase proceeded "smoothly & without difficulties."

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