Amid the fighting. Prime Minister Golda

Meir's caretaker government Sunday

confirmed the appointment of Mordechai!

Motta Gur, head of the northern command,

Soviets to give

Syria more aid

MOSCOW - The Soviet Union has

agreed to give new economic and military aid

to Syria. Pravda said Sunday. The

Communist party newspaper also

denounced Israeli and American efforts to

conclude partial settlements in the Middle

The newspaper's weekly review said

agreements signed Saturday by visiting

Syrian President Hafez Assad and Soviet

leaders "will undoubtedly assist Syria in

developing its independent national

economy and strengthening the country's

Pravda gave no details of the Soviet aid.

Beirut press reports said it would cost

between \$1.5 and 1.8 billion to restore

Syria's economy, shattered in last October's

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as Israel's new chief of staff.

# Press aide blasts Ford

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. - White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler sharply criticized Sunday as "inappropriate" remarks by Vice President Gerald L. Ford on his future plans should President Nixon resign or be compelled to leave office.

Speaking of Nixon, Ziegler said: "He is going to be here until 1977."

Ziegler made the comment to a TV interviewer as he left the Key Biscayne Community Church where Nixon and his family attended Easter worship services.

It was the first public comment by a White House official on the interview which Ford gave to John Osborne of The New Republic magazine which has upset presidential aides.

In the article, Ford discussed a possible future cabinet should he assume the presidency before Nixon's second term ends and he said Ziegler definitely would not be asked to remain as press secretary.

Asked about Ford's remarks to Osborne, Ziegler said grimly: "I don't think that's an appropriate thing to talk about on Easter Sunday. It's not appropriate. He is going to be around here until 1977."

In the article Ford repeated that he does not believe there will be a mid-term succession to the presidency and "he does not want it to happen."

## Mitchell to end direct testimony

NEW YORK - Former Attorney General John N. Mitchell returns to the witness stand Monday to wind up testifying in his own defense and face cross examination by federal prosecutors.

In the last session of the trial Wednesday, the nation's one-time top law officer took the witness stand and denied he conspired to fix a major federal fraud investigation.

Mitchell, 60, at one time one of the nation's most influential men as President Nixon's adviser, former law partner, campaign director and personal friend, is expected to conclude his direct testimony in an hour or two. Cross examination is expected to continue into Tuesday before codefendant Maurice Stans begins his testimony in their periury-conspiracy trial.



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compiled by Tom Scarritt and Walter Colton

## Codeword gets loyalists close to Nixon

DETROIT — Mrs. Robert Zako of Detroit managed to kiss President Nixon during his campaign swing through Michigan last week by murmuring MCSP 227 to one of

in a copyrighted story Sunday, the Detroit News reported that the President's advance men use a secret password system to provide Nixon boosters a chance to get close to the chief executive.

It quoted an unidentified White House aide as saying the codeword system is used "to reward Nixon loyalists."

## Libya cuts off oil shipments to Egypt

BEIRUT — Libya has suspended oil shipments to Egypt because of President Anwar Sadat's acceptance of the cease-fire that ended last October's Middle East war, Libyan Prime minister Maj. Abdel Salam Jalloud said Sunday.

Col. Moammar Khadafy, chairman of the ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC), said Libya is prepared to give Syria whatever help it needs to continue the fight against Israel.

## Communist rockets hit Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH — Communist forces fired 17 rockets into Phnom Penh Saturday and Sunday and raided a Cambodian New Year gathering, killing at least eight people and wounding 87 others in the worst such attacks in two months. Twelve 107mm rockets tore into the capital at about 9 p.m. Saturday night, killing

six people and injuring 52, officials said.

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### Diplomat recovering after shooting

CORDOBA, Argentina — U.S. diplomat Alfred A. Laun III, kidnaped and shot two days ago by leftist guerrillas, is making a favorable recovery after his escape, hospital spokesmen said Sunday.

Laun, the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) director in Cordoba, 420 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, was surprised at his home by armed guerrillas Friday

The guerrillas of the People's Revolutionary Army shot Laun, 36, when they could not subdue him by pistolwhipping him.



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# Middle East battle rages

BEIRUT - Israeli and Syrian forces fought close-quarter battles Sunday over the peak of strategic Mount Hermon. Both sides said the other took heavy losses but Israel admitted suffering the highest number of casualties in a single day of fighting on the Golan Heights since the October Middle

Syria also claimed - and the Israeli military command in Tel Aviv denied - that four Israeli planes were shot down during the

The Israeli command said Israeli infantry backed by air strikes and artillery fire wiped out a Syrian infiltration force of at least 12 commandos who crossed into Israeli-held territory on the mountain and holed up in a cave. Syria said the Israeli attack on its Hermon positions had been foiled.

A total of 17 Israeli soldiers were wounded

Sunday, the Tel Aviv command said, 13 of them in the close-quarter fighting on the Hermon slopes and four others later in the day by Syrian rocket and cannon fire aimed at the peak of the mountain and elsewhere along the Golan line.

Syria said it had killed or wounded 50 Israelis but admitted to losing 12 of its own men killed and eight wounded.

The highest Israeli casualty toll before Sunday was on Jan. 2, when three soldiers were killed and two wounded.

Mount Hermon, 9,000 feet high, commands the entire Golan Heights. Lookouts on its peak can see for hundreds of miles - from Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean shore to the Syrian capital of

Asked whether he thought the Syrian offer

left room for negotiations, Dinitz said,

"there is definitely always room for give and

It was the 34th consecutive day of fighting on the Golan Heights.

# Syrian plan explained

929-0170

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Henry Kissinger Sunday explained Syria's new troop disengagement proposals to Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz, who said the plan allowed room for negotiation.

Dinitz also said Israel was willing to cease hostilities on the embattled Golan Heights front with Syria whenever Syria would do the same, but not before.

Kissinger and Dintiz conferred for about one hour, 35 minutes on the proposals for Syrian-Israeli troop disengagement submitted Saturday by Syria's special envoy, Hikmut Khalil Chahabi. The talks preceded Kissinger's scheduled departure for New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly session Monday and host a dinner Sunday night for a vice premier of China.

"We had a long and constructive discussion in which Kissinger related to me the substance of his conversation with the Syrians and also passed on the Syrian plan and the map, which I will now pass on to my government," Dinitz told newsmen after the talks. Kissinger did not appear.

Dinitz said he would also be passing on "the explanations the secretary gave, which

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