

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVI Fifty-Second Year

Tuesday, March 25, 1969

No. 57

Reported Russian Permission For Rabbinic Study Draws Expressions Of Guarded Hope

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) -- Specialists in Soviet Jewish affairs today voiced guarded hope that a report that a Russian youth will be permitted to study for the Russian rabbinate in Hungary will point to an easing of one area of the "Soviet Jewish problem." "This could be a step forward--an objective one--if it comes to pass," said one source. "We will be watching and waiting." The report was made here yesterday by Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue, who recently visited the Soviet Union to attend the 75th birthday celebration of Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow's Central Synagogue. He is president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and was accompanied to Russia by Father Clement J. McNaspy, associate editor of the Jesuit weekly "America." Also visiting Russia with them, though not at the celebration, were Foundation trustees John Mosler and Joseph P. Williams.

Rabbi Schneier said that the problem of the lack of replacements for the few elderly rabbis in the Soviet Union was brought up at a conference his group had with Peter Makartsev, a top official of the Soviet Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR Council of Ministers. The problem stems from the dearth of rabbinical seminaries in Russia and the suggestion was made that Jewish students be allowed to study for the rabbinate in Hungary, the only Communist bloc country with a rabbinical seminary, Rabbi Schneier said.

The members of the group told Mr. Makartsev that the Foundation would absorb the expense involved in the training of rabbinic students and suggested that the students chosen for study in Budapest commit themselves to return to the USSR after completing their course. Rabbi Schneier said Hungary was chosen because it was within the orbit of the Soviet Union and not subject to fluctuating East-West relations. "Mr. Makartsev told us that this would be a satisfactory arrangement and suggested that Rabbi Levin designate the first student," Rabbi Schneier said. Rabbi Levin agreed and it is believed that a student from Georgia, USSR, is likely to be the first student recommended, he said.

Some easing of the difficulties encountered by Soviet Jews in observing their religious practices was reported by the group. Rabbi Schneier said that Father McNaspy discussed with Mr. Makartsev the possibility of establishing a kosher facility in Moscow to enable local Jews and Jewish visitors from abroad to observe their dietary laws. The Soviet official said that it was a possibility but would have to be taken up with Intourist, the official Soviet travel bureau which has jurisdiction over such matters.

The group visited Odessa Rabbi Israel Schwartzblatt and saw the extensive damage done to Odessa's only synagogue by a fire last November which the rabbi said would cost about \$55,000 to repair. He said, "Miraculously, the ark and the 58 Sifrei Torah were not harmed" by the blaze which was attributed to a short circuit in an adjacent matzoh bakery. Some sources have contended that the fire was of suspicious origin. Rabbi Schneier said his group urged the head of the Odessa Council of Religious Affairs to do everything possible to speed reconstruction of the synagogue which is the only one serving the city's 200,000 Jews. They offered a \$10,000 gift toward the repairs. The group also visited 88 year-old Rabbi Lubanoff of the Leningrad Synagogue where a major restoration project was underway on the 80-year-old building. The work is expected to be completed in time for Passover, Rabbi Schneier said.

The visitors described Rabbi Levin's birthday celebration as an historic event for Soviet Jews.

"One of the shortcomings of Jewish life in the Soviet Union is the lack of a central organized Jewish community such as the Russian Orthodox and Baptist churches enjoy," Rabbi Schneier said. "In this respect, the gathering of synagogue leaders from Odessa, Leningrad, Riga and Georgia to honor Rabbi Levin was a milestone which, hopefully, will mark the beginning of a coordinated Jewish religious life."

State Department Officials Differ With Eban's Assessment On Mideast War Outlook

WASHINGTON, March 24 (JTA) -- State Department officials said today that they did not share the view of Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban that there was no real crisis threatening the outbreak of a general Arab-Israeli war. They said the United States remained convinced that a "powder-keg" situation exists, and voiced concern over Israeli and Egyptian "escalation."

The officials referred to Israel's newly announced "search and destroy" policy in which pre-emptive strikes are made against terrorist bases and to the Suez situation. In the officials' view, this new strategy increases the risk of general war and complicates U.S. diplomacy on the eve of the visit of Jordan's King Hussein to Washington as President Nixon's guest.

Egyptian artillery barrages across the Suez Canal were also condemned as an "escalation" bringing closer the specter of general conflict. Officials said Egypt was employing the same philosophy that underlies the "search and destroy" air attacks. Egypt has claimed that its shelling is a form of "pre-ventive" action to forestall Israeli "aggressive" preparations along the canal. Officials disagreed with Mr. Eban's recently expressed views here which they said minimized the chances of general war. On the contrary, they regarded the situation as having further deteriorated. State Department sources could not say precisely when the proposed Big Four conference at the United Nations would be held. While they were not aware of a fixed date as yet, officials said that despite Israel's objections, the talks would,

sooner or later, be held. To reinforce their argument that the Mideast was on the brink of open warfare, officials cited a statement submitted March 19 by Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird to the Senate Armed Services Committee. Secretary Laird said that "in the Middle East the almost daily clashes indicate that the Arab-Israeli conflict verges on an active state of war, with the imminent threat of expansion. This situation is complicated by the continuing flow of Soviet arms to their Arab clients." The Defense Secretary cautioned that "the Soviets are increasing their naval capabilities in the Mediterranean, as well as increasing their involvement in Middle East affairs."

Israeli, Egyptian Troops In New Artillery, Tank Duel At Canal

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- A new artillery and tank battle erupted between Israeli and Egyptian forces on the Suez Canal early today and spread over almost the entire length of the waterway before it ended shortly after noon. Each side blamed the other for starting the battle, the first in six days; which raged for nearly four hours.

An Israeli military spokesman said the Egyptians fired a single shell at Israeli positions in the Small Bitter Lake area at 6:30 a.m. local time. He said Israeli gunners did not return the fire until two hours later when massed Egyptian artillery opened up from Port Tewfik in the south to Kantara near the canal's northern entrance. No Israeli casualties were reported. The spokesman said Israeli tanks battered Egyptian oil refineries but did not say which refineries were hit. In recent fighting, Israeli guns blasted the refineries at Port Suez destroying an estimated 300,000 tons of oil and setting fires that lasted several days. The spokesman said Israeli gunners observed a UN cease-fire order at noon today but the Egyptians continued sporadic shelling for nearly a half hour more. An Egyptian military communique said today that the Panamanian-flag ship Khalida was hit by an Israeli shell in Port Suez but gave no other details. The communique did not mention new hits on the Suez oil refineries but claimed that Egyptian "counter-fire" destroyed nine Israeli tanks and a large amount of other equipment including rockets. It also claimed "heavy casualties" on the Israeli side and put Egyptian losses as one killed, nine wounded and one vehicle destroyed.

New fighting broke out along the Israel-Jordan border today where a 70-minute machinegun duel was fought south of the Sea of Galilee. No casualties were reported.

See Change In Jordanian Cabinet As Possible Effort To Achieve Moderate Stance

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan asked Foreign Minister Abdel Moneim Rifai to form a new government today following the resignation of Prime Minister Bahjat al-Talhouni and his cabinet. The reshuffling was seen by some observers here as a move by the King to establish a government more amenable to a political solution of the Middle East crisis. Mr. Rifai was said to favor a political solution, an approach Mr. al-Talhouni reportedly opposed. The former Prime Minister was said to have been at odds with the King for some time over foreign policy and reportedly objected to a confrontation between King Hussein's troops and Arab guerrillas in Amman last November. The government change came as the King prepared for a visit to Washington April 8-9. Sources here said Foreign Minister Rifai's more moderate views were well known in Washington and at the United Nations.

(There was no official evaluation in Jerusalem today of the change in Jordan's government. One source said, however, that the replacement of Mr. al-Talhouni with someone more moderate might be a political maneuver by King Hussein to prove his good intentions on the eve of his visit to Washington and to show that he was still in control of the country. It has been known in Israel for some time that King Hussein planned to replace Mr. al-Talhouni but when possible successors were discussed it was not Mr. Rifai but such pro-Egyptian politicians as Suleiman Nabulsi who were most frequently mentioned. King Hussein was known to have disagreed with his Prime Minister on the issue of aid to Palestinian guerrillas. Mr. Talhouni was for all-out support while the King appeared to fear that such a course would draw retaliation from Israel, sources here said.

Israelis Angered By Demand That Guerrillas Be Exchanged For Pilot's Body

TEL AVIV, March 24 (JTA) -- Israeli officials were infuriated today by a Jordanian demand for the release of three EI Fatah prisoners in return for the body of Lt. Shaul Gilboa, an Israeli fighter pilot whose jet was shot down over Jordanian territory last Friday, the evening newspaper Maariv reported. The Jordanian demand was reportedly transmitted through the International Red Cross which Israel had asked to arrange for the return of the pilot's remains. The newspaper recalled that the Jordanians returned a coffin filled with mud when they said they were returning the body of an Israeli soldier killed in the attack on the EI Fatah base at Karamah just a year ago. Maariv said it was not likely that Israel would agree to the Jordanian "blackmail."

Lt. Gilboa was shot down during an air strike against guerrilla bases in Jordan following a 90-minute artillery duel near the Allenby Bridge. According to an Israeli spokesman, the shooting was started by the Jordanians to cover the escape of a band of saboteurs intercepted by an Israeli patrol. The bodies of two of the saboteurs were found today in the dense vegetation along the river's west bank. A spokesman said the infiltrators may have suffered more casualties which they dragged back across the river. The Air Force announced today that Lt. Gilboa, who was 23, has been promoted posthumously to the rank of captain.

Cabinet Approves Recommendations For Memorializing Levi Eshkol's Name In Negev

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- The Cabinet approved yesterday a series of recommendations for memorializing the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol which were drawn up by a joint committee of cabinet members and the Jewish Agency. In accordance with the recommendations, two sub-districts in the western Negev--Besor and Maon--will be known as the Eshkol sub-district and the local council will be

called the Eshkol council. The Beit Netofa reservoir in Upper Galilee which stores Jordan River water for irrigation of the Negev, will be renamed Lake Eshkol. The name of Israel's third Prime Minister, who died Feb. 26, will also be perpetuated in a new forest to be planted by the Jewish National Fund on the slopes of the Jordan Valley, a new power station of the Israel electric company and a new quarter in Jerusalem. There is already a cargo ship named Eshkol in Israel's merchant marine fleet.

Open Israel Museum Financed By Million Dollar Gift From German Publisher Springer

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- A library made possible by a million dollar gift from West German publisher Axel Springer was opened here today. Its construction was delayed by the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The stone and glass structure contains an auditorium and will house the central library for archeology and fine arts if the Israel Museum which will eventually contain 100,000 volumes. A potential problem was averted at the outset when Mr. Springer said he had no intention of having the library named after him. Some objections were raised here to naming a Jerusalem edifice after a German and the publisher immediately cabled Mayor Teddy Kollek that he had never for a moment thought of it. Mr. Kollek, chairman of the museum's board of governors, thanked Mr. Springer for his "dignified attitude" and "understanding."

Mr. Springer, a millionaire publisher of German newspapers and other periodicals and a target of criticism by German leftists, made the donation for the building to Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan in West Berlin in 1966 with Mayor Kollek present. Mr. Springer visited Israel that same year and was received in the municipality which was then 30 yards from the armistice line with Jordan. The proximity reminded the German guest that he had just completed a publishing house next to the wall dividing East and West Berlin. The library was founded in 1906 as the Bezalel Library of art and presently has 30,000 volumes dealing with art and archeology.

'Pravda' Demands That West Germany Abolish War Crimes Statute Of Limitations

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) -- The Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda charged today that many Nazi war criminals in West Germany enjoy freedom and demanded that the Germans abolish the statute of limitations which would end all war crimes prosecutions if it goes into effect as scheduled at the end of this year.

The Pravda article appeared as an international conference on questions related to war crimes prosecution opened in Moscow. It was written by attorney general Roman Rudenko, the one-time chief of the Soviet prosecution at the Nuremberg war crimes trials. Mr. Rudenko wrote, "The nature of the grievous crimes of Nazism demands that not a single Hitlerite war criminal remain unpunished and makes inconceivable the statute of limitations on those crimes." The Soviet Government has recently made available to West Germany microfilm documents relating to Nazi war criminals.

(In Brussels today, Ernest Glinne, a Socialist member of Parliament, said about 100,000 war crimes suspects would escape trial in West Germany if the statute of limitations took effect, and asked the Government for a statement on the matter. Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel said the Belgian government was watching "with great concern" how West German Federal authorities will treat the issue which is now under consideration by them.)

Benda Tells Bundestag He Will Ask Government To Seek Court Ban on NPD

BONN, March 24, (JTA) -- Interior Minister Ernst Benda told the Bundestag (lower house) that he would submit material gathered on the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) to the government shortly and ask it to approach the Constitutional High Court at Karlsruhe for a ban on the NPD. Mr. Benda's ministry conducted an exhaustive investigation of the NPD which is reputedly neo-Nazi. Observers here however saw little chance that the government would take action to ban it. Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger and a majority of the cabinet are opposed to such a move.

West Berlin authorities are pressing the Allied powers to ban the NPD in the city together with two extreme right-wing newspapers. An appeal last week to the occupying powers--U.S., Britain and France--was the second in recent months by Mayor Klaus Schutz of West Berlin with the backing of the City Council. The mayor asked for a ban on the NPD's newspaper, Deutsche Nachrichten and the ultra-nationalist, anti-Semitic newspaper, Deutsch National und Soldaten Zeitung. The latter newspaper and its editor, Gerhard Frey, were also the subject of a complaint lodged by the Federal Government with the Constitutional High Court at Karlsruhe.

CJFWF Fact Finding Mission Maps Future Collaboration With Brazilian Jewry

SAO PAULO, March 24 (JTA) -- A fact-finding mission of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds of the United States met here with leaders of the Brazilian Jewish community to map plans for future collaboration and contacts. The visiting group is headed by Louis J. Fox, president of the CJFWF, and includes Philip Bernstein, executive vice president; Theodore Comet, director of overseas services; Lavy Becker of Montreal; Herman Katz of Columbus, Ohio; Hyman Safran of Detroit; Bernhard Schaenen, of Dallas, and Sanford Treguboff of San Francisco. The group was greeted by Moyses Kauffmann and Benno Milnitzky, Brazilian Jewish community leaders. They were reportedly impressed by the standards of local educational, welfare and recreational institutions maintained by the Jewish community.

British Jewish National Fund Plans To Hold Its 1970 Annual Conference In Israel

LONDON, March 24 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund of Britain informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that plans were being made to hold its 1970 annual conference in Israel in September of that year.

Javits, Goldberg Warn Against Soviet, French Efforts To Devise Imposed Peace

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits and Arthur J. Goldberg declared today that the United States must not be a party to anticipated efforts by the Soviet Union and France to devise an imposed solution to the Arab-Israel conflict at the forthcoming Big Four talks on the Mideast. Sen. Javits, New York Republican and a Senate Foreign Relations Committee member, warned President Nixon not to be "trapped" into an attempt to write a peace treaty between the Arabs and Israelis. Arthur J. Goldberg, former United Nations Ambassador, said the Four Power talks were "bound to fail" if they sought to impose a settlement. Both leaders addressed the two-day National Leadership Conference for Peace in the Middle East convened here by the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations.

According to Sen. Javits, "The U.S. should serve notice on the USSR "that we will not be drawn into any other temporary arrangements in the Middle East but would rather sweat it out until there is an actual peace settlement." He said such a settlement can be hammered out only by the parties to the conflict. "A Four Power conference," he continued, "cannot and must not be an alternative to Arab-Israel negotiations for peace--nor should it be an excuse for not holding them."

Mr. Goldberg, a former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and now American Jewish Committee president, said some good may come out of the talks between the U.S., Britain, France and Russia if their purpose is "to promote a dialogue and an agreed settlement between the parties." He warned, however, that "if on the other hand the Four Powers either singly or in combination seek to impose a settlement on the parties, then the efforts of the Four Powers are bound to fail and much mischief may result." Mr. Goldberg said, "the inferences that Israel is approaching peacemaking with undue rigidity is unjustified."

Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban told the Conference's opening session yesterday that Israel would never be bound by a Four Power decision to impose peace. "National suicide," he said, "is not an international obligation." Secretary of State William P. Rogers today sent a telegram to Rabbi Herschel Schacter, Presidents Conference chairman, which said, "Like you my colleagues and I are deeply concerned about the situation which continues to prevail in the Middle East. Let me assure you that we are exploring every possible means of helping Ambassador (Gunnar V.) Jarring in his task of promoting agreement of the terms of the just and lasting peace envisaged by the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution. We know the deep interest of your member organizations in the search for Middle East peace and are always glad to receive your counsel."

Warns Parents Not To See Day Schools As Avenue Of Escape From Public School Problems

NEW YORK, March 24 (JTA) -- The sharp increase in enrollment in Jewish day schools run by the Conservative movement was cited by a Jewish educator who warned yesterday that parents who enrolled their children "as a device to escape the problems of the public school system" were misinterpreting the purpose of Jewish day schools. Dr. Morton Siegel, director of the department of education of the United Synagogue of America, spoke at the third biennial conference of the Solomon Schechter Day Schools.

He said, "This motive cannot become the rationale for the existence of our day schools. Our day schools are built upon a positive foundation which has as its basis our Jewish tradition, which transcends the problems of the moment and focuses on the imperatives of making Jewish education central to the lives of individuals."

Dr. Horace Bier, re-elected president of the Solomon Schechter Day School Association at the two day conference, reported that 28 Conservative day schools were established in the past 12 years and that five more will open next September. He predicted 50 Schechter day schools with an enrollment of 10,000 children within the next five years and said "this figure could easily be surpassed if we had larger funds."

Abba Khoushi, Haifa's Mayor For 18 Years, Dead At 71; Was Important Political Figure

HAIFA, March 24 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Abba Khoushi, Mayor of Haifa for the past 18 years, who died at the Rothschild Hospital here of heart failure early today at the age of 71. Mr. Khoushi was hospitalized a week ago for what was diagnosed as a slight heart attack.

One of Israel's most colorful and most formidable political figures, Mr. Khoushi was born in Turke, Austria and settled in Palestine in 1920 when Haifa was a minor port. He worked as a longshoreman on the docks from 1920 to 1938 when he became general-secretary of Haifa's Workers' Council. He was elected to the first Knesset on the Mapai ticket in 1949 and served until 1951 when he was elected Haifa's mayor. Mr. Khoushi was a member of the executive committee of Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, and of the council of Mapai. He was active in the Haganah, Jewish Palestine's defense force of pre-Statehood days, and had to seek refuge with a Druze family on Mount Carmel when he found himself on the British "wanted" list.

As mayor of Israel's chief seaport and center of heavy industry, Mr. Khoushi administered a city of 300,000 with the energy and flare of the late Fiorello H. LaGuardia, the mayor of New York to whom he was often compared. He was an early riser and each morning he personally inspected the streets for cleanliness and tidiness. The door to his office in Haifa's modern City Hall was always open and the mayor frequently gave personal attention to the problems of individual citizens. He spoke Arabic fluently and his relationship with Haifa's Arab and Druze communities was always considered excellent.

Israel Government Hikes Value Of Non-Licensed Outgoing Gifts To \$140

JERUSALEM, March 24 (JTA) -- The Government has announced that gift parcels valued up to \$140 may be sent from Israel without a special license. The previous limit was \$22.