

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Academic Committee Urges Western Communist Parties To Intercede With Soviets For Jews

WASHINGTON, May 11 (JTA) -- A conference of college faculty members today appealed "in the strongest possible terms" to the presidiums of Western Communist Parties, urging their intervention with the Soviet Union to end discrimination and restrictions imposed on the Soviet Jewish community. The conference, sponsored by the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry, a group of some 3,000 American educators, asked that the Western Communist movements intercede with their "Soviet colleagues" when the groups gather June 5 in Moscow for the first international meeting of Communist Parties since 1960.

In their appeal, the U.S. academicians noted that "in the past two years, this (Soviet) policy of discriminatory deprivation has been pursued in an atmosphere poisoned by massive anti-Jewish propaganda. The Soviet Government," the statement said, has become the world's principal "source and sponsor of such propaganda."

Calling on the Soviet Union to restore Jewish cultural and educational institutions and to allow Soviet Jews freedom to emigrate, the Academic Committee declared: "At a moment in history when East and West are seeking to achieve greater mutual understanding and when public opinion plays so crucial a role, a humane policy may also be the most practical politics."

The appeal was adopted by the 89 college faculty members attending the parley for submission to the Soviet Communist Party, the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Government, and the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

These actions followed two days of discussion during which a panel of academic specialists in Soviet affairs maintained that the USSR had invoked anti-Semitism to rationalize its invasion of Czechoslovakia last August, political penetrations in the Mideast, and similar foreign policy strategy. The panel, which included professors Hans J. Morgenthau of the University of Chicago, Alex Inkeles of Harvard, and John A. Armstrong of the University of Wisconsin, described the Soviet tactic as "a pragmatic approach compounded of fanciful myths about, and accusations against, Zionism and Zionists." The attacks on Zionists were intended as a political stratagem and a disclaimer of anti-Semitism, the panelists said.

A position paper prepared by the Academic Committee and circulated at the conferences suggested that in July, 1967 following the Arab-Israel war, "a high level decision was taken for a massive internal and external propaganda campaign depicting Zionism as a major threat to the Communist world." The conclusion was supported by examples of a continuing and growing series of anti-Jewish themes that have, since the Six-Day War, appeared in Soviet newspapers, books and periodicals, and on Soviet broadcasts.

Dr. Armstrong, past president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, also contended that the "official character" of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union went beyond foreign policy considerations and was rooted in "an inherent opposition of Communist totalitarianism to any group distinguishable from the masses." Such groups as the Jews, "distinguishable by their ethnic solidarity, are anathema to the totalitarianism ethos," he said.

Dr. Morgenthau declared that Soviet anti-Semitism was an inevitable development because "the moral and religious loyalties in Jewish tradition" are regarded by Soviet authorities "as a rival to the basic pretense of totalitarianism that it is the only source of truth and virtue."

### Friedberg, Decter Say Group Consciousness, Ethnic Identity Is Preserved

Notwithstanding the almost total suppression of their Yiddish schools, newspapers and books, and Jewish cultural institutions, Soviet Jews are retaining their group consciousness and ethnic identity, two other specialists in Soviet affairs reported. Prof. Maurice Friedberg, director of the Russian and East European Institute at Indiana University, and Dr. Moshe Decter of New York, director of Jewish Minorities Research, which conducts ongoing studies on the status of Soviet Jewry, attributed this "profound development" to a series of historical events:

The Nazi Holocaust, which slaughtered some one million Russian Jews; the creation of Israel, "which even secularist Jewish Communists regarded as a messianic event"; and a "heightened Jewish awareness that was a residue of the Stalinist anti-Jewish purges of 1948-53 and "Soviet tactics of anti-Jewish discrimination in education and employment over the past 20 years which constantly remind the Soviet Jew who he is."

More recent events, Dr. Decter added, were: the anti-religious campaign that swept through the Soviet Union in the early 1960s directed against all religious faiths and institutions but giving particular emphasis to Judaism; the "economic trials" of the same period in which Jews were specifically singled out for punishment; and the aftermath of the 1967 war "which produced the same feeling of Jewish kinship among Soviet Jews as it did among Western Jews."

Dr. Friedberg reported that nationalist elements in non-Russian republics of the Soviet Union "appeared to be making a conscious effort to promote Jewish cultural causes" as a means of strengthening their own linguistic and cultural autonomy and "demonstratively declaring their opposition to the Russification which threatens their peoples. This development has been evident in the Ukraine and in Byelorussia," he said. Dr. Friedberg also reported, as strong evidence of Jewish consciousness, the fact that "the Jewish people in the Soviet Union, a forbidden subject in official Soviet journals, has become one of the favorite themes of underground Soviet literature."

Prof. Inkeles, a specialist in Soviet sociology, predicted an increase "in the number, form and intensity" of Soviet restrictions against its Jews. He suggested that "leverage" against such Soviet policy might be applied through Western Communist movements, non-aligned nations and Eastern European satellite states." Prof. Morgenthau also described the Soviet Union as "defensive" about charges of anti-Semitism. He said that "under certain conditions, American diplomacy could also have a positive effect in persuading the Soviets to ease their anti-Jewish policies."

#### Philadelphia Students Hold 'Chain-In' And Fast To Protest Book, Soviet Jew's Arrest

PHILADELPHIA, May 11 (JTA) -- Students from Philadelphia area universities chained themselves to the memorial monument for the six million martyrs here and held a fast in protest against a new book by Trofim Kikhko considered to be anti-Semitic and against the arrest of a Soviet Jew who sought to emigrate to Israel. The "chain-in" and "fast-in" began at sundown Saturday and lasted until sundown today, according to Nelson Berman, a member of the sponsoring organization known as Lapid (Torch):

Despite rain, the students passed out leaflets throughout the night dealing with the new book "Judaism and Zionism" and told passers-by about the arrest of Boris L. Kochubiyevsky, a 30-year-old Kiev engineer, whose arrest was reported a few days ago. (The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington also protested the book and the engineer's arrest. It described the volume "as 'repetitions of the anti-Semitic slanders of the Stalinist period at its worst.'")

According to reliable sources, Mr. Kochubiyevsky wrote an impassioned letter to Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev demanding the right to live in Israel "just as it is the right of a Ukrainian to live in the Ukraine, the right of a Russian to live in Russia, the right of a Georgian to live in Georgia." He reportedly said that if he were released from jail he would be ready to go "even on foot to the fatherland of my ancestors." A copy of his letter was reportedly smuggled out of Russia by friends after his arrest in order to contrast his treatment with that of another Jewish student, Yakov Kazakov, who proclaimed himself an Israeli in a letter written to the Supreme Soviet a year ago. No punitive action was ever taken against him.

Mr. Kochubiyevsky and his non-Jewish wife were promised emigration visas last November but Soviet authorities reneged and he was charged with slandering the Soviet Union. The charge was based on his denunciation of Soviet propaganda attacks on Israel after the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war.

#### **25 Yiddish And Hebrew Writers Listed In Polish 'Lexicon' Of Greater Literary Artists**

LONDON, May 11 (JTA) -- A recently published Polish "pocket lexicon" of world famous writers carries the names of 25 Yiddish and Hebrew writers among the 1,500 literary greats listed. The lexicon, published in Warsaw, was prepared by the late Prof. Ben Mark, the head of the Jewish Historical Institute.

Among the Jewish writers listed are Mocher Mendeleyev; I.L. Peretz; Sholem Aleichem; Leib Kvitko; Peretz Markish; Abraham Goldfaden; H. Leivick; Jacob Glatstein; Yitzhak Katznelson; Zalman Shneur; Joseph Opatoshu; Alter Kazisne; Yehuda Halevy; Solomon Ibn-Gabriel; Shmuel Hanagid; Emanuel Haromi; S.J. Agnon; Saul Tchernichowsky; Yosef Chaim Brenner and Abraham Shlonsky.

Reports from Warsaw said the Yiddish State Theater in Poland is now concluding its season with a production of "God, Man and the Devil," an old play by Jacob Gordon, based on Dr. Faustus. No modern plays were included in the repertoire this season and the theater's fate seems to be hanging in the balance. The former directress of the Yiddish State Theater, the actress Ida Kaminska, left Poland permanently last year and now resides in the United States.

#### **U.S. Envoy Assures Eban That Washington Is Not Negotiating Territory With Russia**

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban has been assured by United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour that the U.S. is not conducting any negotiations with the Soviet Union over details of a territorial settlement in the Middle East, reliable quarters said today. Mr. Barbour reportedly met with Mr. Eban yesterday and told him that agreement between the U.S. and the Soviet Union is still far off although the Russians have shown a softer attitude toward American proposals than in the past.

Mr. Barbour's assurances appeared to be confirmed from another source yesterday. An Israeli radio correspondent, Yigal Yossin, reported from Washington that the U.S. and Soviet Russia are not engaged in "drawing maps" at the current stage of their bilateral talks on the Mideast but are still discussing principles. The correspondent, who attributed his information to "a very highly placed source" whom he did not name, said the U.S. agreed with Israel's contention that there is no immediate danger of all-out war because Israel has no intention of starting one and the Arabs lack the strength to do so. He said that the U.S. holds that there can be no Mideast agreement unless Israel is guaranteed free passage through the Suez Canal and that Israel cannot be expected to withdraw to new borders in exchange for "cloudy promises."

(The Soviet Embassy in Washington took the unprecedented step yesterday of publicly criticizing a Washington Post story that Russia was apparently amenable to "minor" boundary adjustments in the Mideast and would not insist on Israeli evacuation of East Jerusalem. The story, by the Post's United Nations correspondent Robert Estabrook, said that this Soviet position had emerged in the current round of talks between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin. The Embassy statement said the article was "based on inventions and falsifications and rudely distorts the position of the Soviet side in the course of the...exchanges of view, particularly on territorial questions.")

(Mr. Estabrook said in an article last Tuesday that Mr. Dobrynin "reportedly has suggested" to U.S. officials "that minor adjustments on Middle East boundaries can be negotiated if Israel first commits itself to withdrawal from captured Arab territories." He added that "the mention of border adjustments is taken as an indication that the Syrian Golan Heights might be included in redrawn Israeli boundaries." He wrote further that "Dobrynin's failure to dwell on Jerusalem also is regarded as a sign that Moscow would not object strenuously to Israeli retention of the Arab city, provided Jordanian rights in the Holy Places were respected.")

### Three Israeli Soldiers Killed And 7 Wounded Since Thursday; 8 Arab Guerrillas Killed

TEL AVIV, May 11 (JTA) -- Three Israeli soldiers have been killed and seven wounded in clashes along the Jordanian demarcation line and in the Suez Canal sector since Thursday, a military spokesman reported. Eight Arab saboteurs were killed in four separate clashes Friday and Saturday as guerrillas attempted to infiltrate from Jordan.

Almost non-stop artillery duels raged across the Suez Canal from sundown Friday until late Saturday afternoon. Shooting was sporadic Sunday. No Israeli casualties were reported in the latest clashes but two soldiers were killed and three were wounded by Egyptian shell fire Thursday. The third Israeli fatality occurred in a battle with infiltrators near Umm Shurt in the Jordan Valley north of the Allenby Bridge, Friday. Jordanian and Israeli troops battled with tank guns, mortars and machine-guns north of the Dead Sea Saturday.

The action followed an Israeli commando raid into Jordan Friday. The Israelis blew up 12 buildings at a guerrilla base at Wadi Yabes, 15 miles south of the Sea of Galilee. A military spokesman said all of the commandos returned safely to their bases. Israeli sappers demolished Thursday 10 houses belonging to identified members of sabotage rings in Nablus and nearby villages. One house was spared because it was feared its destruction might have damaged nearby structures.

An Israeli spokesman said the Suez Canal shelling was again started by Egyptians who concentrated on an area north of Qantara and south of Port Said at the Mediterranean entrance to the canal. He said Israeli return fire silenced Egyptian guns on the outskirts of Port Said and hit the only road linking Port Said with the mainland. The Egyptian port, which has provided an anchorage for Soviet warships, is separated from the mainland by a marshy lagoon.

Harassing fire from Egyptian gunners delayed evacuation of United Nations personnel from their battered observation post near Qantara to a new post 30 miles inland today, Israel said. Three attempts to effect the move were prevented by Egyptian fire despite a promise by the Egyptians that they would respect the UN insignia. On the fourth attempt, UN employees managed to load their trucks. The observation post near Qantara has come under almost constant fire from snipers, mortars and artillery in the past few weeks. The building is a shambles and the UN asked for a transfer to a new site which was allotted to them by Israeli authorities. The civilian population of east Qantara was evacuated several months ago to El Arish in the northern Sinai.

Reports from Beirut monitored here over the weekend indicated that Lebanese authorities were trying to reach a truce with Syrian-backed guerrillas through the mediation efforts of Hassan al-Kholy, a personal envoy of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Mr. al-Kholy conferred Friday with Yassir Arafat, the El Fatah leader who is chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Afterwards the Egyptian met with Lebanese President Charles Helou. Government officials in Beirut said two Lebanese soldiers and two Arab guerrillas were killed in a clash in Kabr Knikha, a village six miles from the Israeli border. Members of the al-Saiqa (Thunderbolt) and El Fatah guerrillas were arrested, Lebanese newspapers reported. Lebanon, fearing Israeli reprisal, has sought to stop guerrilla military action against Israel from her territory.

### Soviet Union Calls For Strict Observance Of UN Cease-Fire Line By All Parties

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 11 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has called for strict observance by all sides of the UN cease-fire in the Middle East and has pledged to make "all efforts" to achieve a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Soviet stand was stated in a letter presented by Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik to Secretary-General U Thant, apparently in response to Mr. Thant's April 21 warning to the Security Council that fighting in the Suez Canal zone amounted to virtually open war. Observers here considered the Soviet letter significant in that it omitted the usual invective against Israel and implied a rebuke to President Gamal Abdel Nasser of who has justified Egyptian military action at the canal on the grounds that Israel was fortifying the Canal's east bank.

The Soviet note blamed Israel for "impeding" a settlement based on the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution but did not spell out the Soviet-Arab interpretation of the resolution which is that Israel must withdraw from occupied territories before any other provisions are implemented. The letter rapped Israel for its opposition to the Four Power Mideast talks now going on here and in which Mr. Malik is a participant.

The Washington Post reported that another Communist diplomat said that Egypt has privately reaffirmed its respect for the Suez cease-fire which President Nasser and other Egyptian spokesmen previously denounced. The Post also reported that the U.S. has asked the Soviet Union to use its influence with Syria to check Arab commando activities in Lebanon; the implied *quid pro quo* was that the U.S. would seek to restrain Israel from mounting reprisals against Lebanon for any guerrilla raids coming from its soil. The U.S. request was reportedly made by Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco at one of his meetings with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin.

### Israel Establishes Full Relations With Singapore, Which Has Large Moslem Minority

JERUSALEM, May 11 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry announced that full diplomatic relations have been established between Israel and Singapore on an ambassadorial level effective at midnight Sunday. The Israeli trade mission in the tiny southeast Asian island state has been elevated to the rank of an embassy, the ministry said. The chief of mission, Hagai Dikan, will be named Israel's Ambassador.

Singapore, which lies just south of Malaysia and was Britain's greatest naval base east of Suez before achieving independence, has a large, influential Moslem minority. The Singapore Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday that diplomatic recognition of Israel did not mean endorsement of all of its policies, but added, "Singapore remains committed to the belief that no country, however big or small, should be denied the right to exist." Israel has assured Singapore that it does not intend to retain territory by force of arms and that its aim is peace. The assurance was given in a diplomatic exchange of notes prior to the establishment of formal relations.

### Anti-Nazi Demonstrators Clash With Delegates To National Democratic Party Parley

BONN, May 11 (JTA) -- Anti-Nazi demonstrators clashed in Stuttgart yesterday with delegates to the right-wing National Democratic Party's (NPD) convention which opened there despite objections from the city fathers. Students and trade unionists shouted "Nazi pigs" and "brown rats" and hurled missiles at the 600 delegates and 400 guests as they left the meeting hall. Party chairman Adolf Von Thadden had to leave by a side door under police protection.

The Stuttgart municipality had banned the gathering of the reputedly neo-Nazi party and locked the meeting hall in defiance of a court injunction against the ban. The hall was opened by a locksmith sent by the court. Mr. Von Thadden got an enthusiastic reception from the delegates who endorsed the platform on which the NPD will present its candidates for election to the Bundestag (lower house) next September. It calls for a general amnesty for all Nazi war criminals and a ban on student demonstrations.

### Ben-Gurion, In Johannesburg, Ridicules Reports That Israel Has Built 5 Atomic Bombs

JOHANNESBURG, May 11 (JTA) -- Reports that Israel has built five atomic bombs were described here as "nonsense" by visiting former Premier David Ben-Gurion at a heavily attended press conference. The report was published in a Montreal newspaper and attributed to newsmen of Der Spiegel, the West German weekly.

Ben-Gurion used the same comment on allegations by other foreign press sources that Israel was hiding figures on losses from Egyptian attacks across the Suez Canal and from Arab guerrilla raids. He said Israel's policy was to stick to the facts and its casualty reports were always accurate. He also said he did not expect any radical change in France's Middle East policy as a result of Gen. Charles de Gaulle's resignation as President, but he considered an eventual change more favorable to Israel as possible. He repeated earlier statements that he regarded Arab-Israel peace as more important than territories and added that while Israel wanted peace, that could come only by the interested parties meeting in talks which the Arabs have until now refused. He said the present Big Four talks at the UN could not make decisions for Israel or the Arab countries, which were sovereign states.

Some 4,000 pupils of the Jewish day schools in Johannesburg, Pretoria and elsewhere feted the visitor at a mass rally held at the King David high school here. They presented him with a check for the Paula Ben-Gurion fund named in memory of the former Premier's wife. The pupils had collected the money since the June, 1967 war. Principal Norman Sandler and Louis Sachs, chairman of the South African Board of Jewish Education, welcomed Mr. Ben-Gurion. They told him that the host school had been started in the same year as Israel with seven pupils and now had an enrollment of 3,200. The visitor was deeply moved when he found pupils who could speak Hebrew and chatted with them in that language. Later he addressed a school assembly in English on Jewish education and settlement in Israel.

### Psychiatrist Tells Why Jewish Suicide Rate Is Lower Than National Average

PITTSBURGH, May 11 (JTA) -- A psychiatry professor at the University of Southern California believes that Jews are inhibited from taking their own lives because of religious injunctions and because "the Jewish people are too interested in life, production, and creativity for suicide." Those reasons were advanced by Dr. Norman Farberow, co-director of the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center, to explain the fact that the rate of suicide among Jews is lower than the national average.

Dr. Farberow spoke on "The Self" at Duquesne University's Institute of Man. He noted that an aversion to suicide is "imbedded in the Jewish religion...There are regulations against it. Suicide isn't honored. There is no religious ceremony or mourner procedure." Dr. Farberow was one of the founders of the Suicide Prevention Center which grew out of his work in the emergency ward of a Los Angeles hospital. The Center is open 24 hours a day to take calls from would-be suicides whom its staff attempts to dissuade by rational discussion of the caller's problems.