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Soviet Union Has Asked Syria To Release 2 Israelis From Hijacked Plane, Says 'Haaretz'

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has told United States State Department officials that the Soviet Foreign Ministry has recommended to Syria that it release the two Israelis still being held from the American Trans-World airliner hijacked to Damascus last Friday, the newspaper Haaretz reported today.

Quoting "well-informed sources," Haaretz said the Soviet Union's recommendation had been connected with the possible forthcoming United Nations Security Council meeting on the Al Aksa mosque fire in East Jerusalem on Aug. 21. By continuing to hold the Israelis, the Syrians might prejudice the Arab case in the meetings, the Russians are said to believe.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, differences between Arab and non-Arab Moslem countries over political exploitation of the mosque fire has still prevented agreement on the form of a draft resolution to be presented to the Council if it convenes.

(In Washington, the State Department today was confronted by a demarche by 13 Moslem nations ranging from radical to conservative who joined in a demand for the United States to pressure Israel out of the Old City of Jerusalem because of the Al Aksa mosque fire. The Moslem envoys met with Under-Secretary of State Elliott Richardson and other officials. They said that the 13 Moslem nations, some of which are very friendly to the U.S., were "shocked" by the "incredible act of arson" for which they held the Israeli occupation responsible. The diplomats represented Pakistan, Iran, Maldives, Malaysia, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Somalia, Lebanon, Jordan, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Niger.

(Mr. Richardson told the delegation that the U.S. shared the wide concern the fire had aroused and indicated that the State Department would "weigh carefully" the views expressed by the Moslems. Mr. Richardson also reiterated and reviewed previous expressions of concern by the U.S. over the fire.)

In Jerusalem, Mrs. Naomi Samueloff, wife of Prof. Shlomo Samueloff, a teacher at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and one of the Israelis held in Syria, appealed yesterday for world public opinion to apply pressure for release of the pair. She said, "I think a big Government like America can find a way to obtain the release of the two," and said Israel should not exchange Arab terrorists for the Israelis as such action would set a dangerous precedent.

(In a letter to The New York Times today, Mrs. Faye L. Schenk, national president of Hadassah, said there was irony in Syria's detention of Prof. Samueloff. She noted he has "been investigating man's acclimatization to desert environments...research...likely to benefit the Arabs themselves.")

Thant Agrees To Meet In Geneva With Pilots' Representatives

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant will meet Saturday in Geneva with representatives of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations to discuss the hijacking by Arab terrorists of the TWA plane. They will also confer on the general problem of air piracy.

Mr. Thant responded yesterday to a cable from Capt. Ole Forsberg of Finnair, president of IFALPA, who requested the meeting to discuss his 44,000-member organization's plans for a 24-hour "cessation of operations" unless the Israelis are released. The Secretary-General did not endorse the strike but again assailed the hijacking as a "criminal act" and stressed the importance of the release of the passengers. Mr. Thant will meet IFALPA representatives while en route to Ethiopia for an official visit.

Mrs. Meir's Israel Labor Party Loses Histadrut Council Seats In Election

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The Labor Party, led by Premier Golda Meir, suffered a severe blow in this week's Histadrut elections, nearly final returns show. Although Mrs. Meir's party retained control of the General Federation of Labor, it will have fewer seats in the next Histadrut Council.

Instead of the 77.5 percent of the seats held in the outgoing Council by the three parties that merged last year and the fourth that joined them to form the "alignment" in the Histadrut, they will now hold about 61.99.

The countrywide Histadrut elections were followed with particular interest because its members make up about half of the citizens who will vote in the Knesset election to be held in October. Only 65 percent of the one million eligible to vote in the Histadrut election cast ballots.

The gains were divided among the smaller parties. Among them were Gahal, the Herut-Liberal coalition, which garnered 17.19 percent, and the two Communist parties, which together got nearly four percent. Probably the biggest surprise was the emergence of a new party, the State List, put together by former Premier David Ben-Gurion, which got 3.73 percent.

It is not certain that the results of this week's vote will be a forecast of the national elections, slated Oct. 28. But there are indications already that Labor Party leaders are trying to assess the causes of their setback in order to prevent its repetition next month.

2 Israeli Soldiers And 6 Arab Saboteurs Are Killed In Fighting

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Two Israeli soldiers and six Arab saboteurs were killed in several incidents in the past 24 hours.

One saboteur was killed around midnight in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Al Hamma. Other members of the saboteur gang, which had crossed the Yamouk River into Israeli-held territory, returned to Jordan. There were no Israeli casualties in the clash. Another saboteur was killed and an Israeli soldier injured early this morning in the Gaza Strip north of Khan Yunis when an Israeli patrol encountered a gang of saboteurs.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed last night and two injured when an Israeli patrol encountered a group of saboteurs south of the Damiyah Bridge. One of the saboteurs was killed and his companion re-crossed the Jordan River.

Israeli planes today attacked the Jordanian position that covered the escape of the saboteurs on the East Bank of the Jordan River. Israeli planes bombed and strafed the targets in two attacks, one lasting 35 minutes and the second lasting 15 minutes.

Three Arab saboteurs were killed this afternoon and a fourth captured in a combined operation of army and border police units near the village of Djamyin near the Nablus-Samaria district. There were no Israeli casualties.

Israeli planes attacked targets in Jordan this morning following attacks on Israeli position in the Maoz Chaim area of the Beisan Valley. An Israeli patrol was attacked by saboteurs from the dense vegetation on the eastern bank of the Jordan River. Israeli forces returned fire and the saboteur's positions were attacked by air.

A number of fire exchanges across the Suez Canal during the night was reported. Small arms and mortar was used by both sides. No Israeli casualties were reported. An Israeli patrol was attacked by bazooka shells near Gesher. There were no Israeli casualties and fire was returned.

20,000 Persons Attend Funeral Of Rabbi Joseph Kahanemann, Noted Talmudist

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Some 20,000 persons, among them Israel's chief dignitaries, attended the funeral yesterday of the renowned Talmudist, Rabbi Joseph Kahanemann, who headed the Ponevez Yeshiva in Bnai Brak near here. He had transferred the yeshiva to Israel from Lithuania after World War II. Among those present were Cabinet members, Israel's chief rabbis, heads of yeshivot and deans of rabbinical courts, the army's chief chaplain and many others.

Meanwhile, Amos de Shalit, the noted Israeli nuclear scientist who died this week at 43, was buried in Rehovot, where he worked and, Cabinet members, scientists, members of the Knesset, and the Weizmann Institute staff and many academicians were present.

Israeli Police Abandon Full-Scale Search For Missing Dr. James A. Pike

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Israeli police announced tonight that they had abandoned the full-scale search in the Judean desert for Dr. James A. Pike, former Episcopal Bishop of California. Enos Givati, the Bethlehem police chief, said that unless Dr. Pike, lost since Monday on the wasteland, has been found and aided by Bedouin tribesmen, he could not have survived three days without water or food.

"People have been known to survive for seven days out there. But they were rare cases and they were not bishops straight from the United States used to an easy life," Chief Givati said.

Troops and police combed the desert west of the Dead Sea for three days without results. Civilian volunteers were to continue the search Friday. Dr. Pike has been missing since Monday when a car he and his wife had driven into the wilderness got stuck in a rut. The search began shortly after Mrs. Pike stumbled into a camp of Arab workers after wandering in the desert for hours.

23-Year-Old Arab Sentenced To 25 Years For Role In Hebrew U. Cafeteria Bombing

TEL AVIV, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- An Israeli court yesterday sentenced an Israeli Arab to 25 years imprisonment for his part in an explosion in the Hebrew University cafeteria early this year. Adnan Hassan el Yehli, 23, a student at the university, from a Galilee village, was identified as the man who proposed the site of the bombing. He allegedly brought an Arab girl, Mariam Sharshir, who has been sentenced to life imprisonment, to the site for an early reconnaissance and then returned with her when she brought the bomb. He allegedly waited for her outside the cafeteria and then took her to East Jerusalem.

Ben-Gurion Will Be Guest Of Honor At Closing Ceremonies Of French UJA

PARIS, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Former Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion will be guest of honor at closing ceremonies of the 1969 French United Jewish Appeal (UJA) campaign next month. Mr. Ben-Gurion, who is scheduled to arrive here Oct. 24, will address a meeting of major contributors and another of representatives of youth organizations. Mr. Ben-Gurion's visit was announced by the co-presidents of the French UJA, Jean Rosenthal and Michel Topiol, who also announced that as of Sept. 1, the 1969 UJA campaign in France has equaled the total raised throughout 1968---over \$5 million.

Mr. Ben-Gurion's appearance will culminate a week of mass meetings and public gatherings which will mark this year's campaign here. The week, which is scheduled to begin Oct. 20, will include an evening of 15 meetings to be held simultaneously in theaters and cinemas throughout Paris. A film produced by the Central Jewish Welfare Organization in France will be shown. There is speculation in the French press that Mr. Ben-Gurion may use the occasion of his visit to France to meet with former President Charles de Gaulle at the latter's country retreat at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises.

NPD Banned From Holding Election Campaign Meetings In 2 West German Cities

BONN, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) has been banned from holding election campaign meetings in two West German cities. Authorities in Frankfurt refused to grant the NPD permission to hold a rally there today. An NPD meeting in Frankfurt last month resulted in a riot in which several persons were injured. The city fathers of Offenbach banned an NPD meeting that was to have taken place there Tuesday. An NPD spokesman blamed trade unions for attempting to hamper the party's election campaigning.

The Prime Minister-elect of Hesse, Albert Osswald, said yesterday that he would press for action in the Hesse upper house to ban the NPD on grounds that it was the successor of Hitler's Nazi Party. Mr. Osswald said the events in Frankfurt and elsewhere provided sufficient reason to support Interior Minister Ernst Benda in his efforts to outlaw the NPD as anti-democratic.

Chautauqua Society Endows 87 Resident Lectureships In 27 States And Canada

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- The Jewish Chautauqua Society has endowed 87 resident lectureships --- all college credit courses on Judaism --- for the 1969-70 academic year. The society, an educational project of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods (Reform) aims for a greater understanding of Jews and Judaism by all people. It assigns rabbis to lecture upon request at 170 colleges and 450 youth camps, donates Jewish reference books to college libraries and produces motion pictures about Judaism for television.

Executive director Sylvan Lebow said the resident lectureships "will be in some of the leading colleges in 27 states from coast to coast and in Canada. The faculty includes some of the best scholars in the rabbinate."

Mr. Lebow said a trend toward a more intensive study of Judaism is responsible for a large increase in requests to the society to sponsor courses. "Another reason," he said, "is ecumenical developments which have opened the doors of the Catholic colleges to this service. We assigned rabbis to lecture at 200 Catholic colleges last year, and 40 of the courses we are sponsoring this year are in Catholic colleges."

Nazis Hold 'Congress' In Virginia, Claim 127 Delegates From 28 States And Canada

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Assorted home-grown Nazis gathered at Arlington, Va. this week for what they called the first "North American Congress of the World Union of National Socialists." According to a press release from the group, the event was attended by 127 delegates from 28 states and Canadian provinces.

In a policy statement, the Nazis pledged the "spiritual and political unification of North America from the Arctic to the Rio Grande in a National Socialist New Order to serve as a base for the construction of a greater Aryan community throughout the world." Delegates commemorated the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Nazi Party by Hitler and viewed German Nazi films. They were addressed by Matt Koehl, "commander" of the "World Union" of Nazis; John Beattie, leader of the Canadian Nazi Party; and Robert Lloyd, executive officer of the National Socialist White Peoples Party.

Rohen Agrees To Permit Trial For Burning Of Jerusalem Mosque To Be Televised

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Michael Denis William Rohen, accused of setting the Al Aksa mosque fire here Aug. 21, has agreed to permit his trial to be televised. Mr. Rohen's decision, announced in Jerusalem district court yesterday, will enable Israel to use the trial in an effort to offset Arab propaganda on the fire.

A prominent Israeli criminal lawyer, Isaac Tunik of Tel Aviv, was assigned by the court to defend Mr. Rohen, but the defendant has yet to accept the court's choice. The trial is expected to begin later this month. Judge Henry Baker, the court's president, extended Mr. Rohen's detention until the end of the trial.

Meanwhile, three prominent East Jerusalem Moslem leaders have informed the judicial commission investigating the fire that they would not testify. Sheikh Hilmi el Muhtasib and Hassan Tahboub, director of the Waqf (Moslem religious trusteeship), said they were rejecting invitations to testify on the ground that they do not recognize the legality of the commission. A third Arab and a former Jordanian minister, Anwar Nusseibeh, wrote that he had no personal knowledge of the fire or its causes.

The commission heard the last Jewish witnesses yesterday. Police Chief Daniel Barelli told the commission that he did not order the use of force to disperse the crowds that interfered with the firemen attempting to extinguish the blaze as he did not want to fan the tempers of the crowd. Three of the firemen testified that Arab crowds jeered them, jostled them, and tried to slash their hoses.

Mr. Rohen is charged with two counts of arson and two counts of "violation of holy places." Each count of arson carries a maximum 15-year penalty and each count of violation of a shrine carries a possible seven-year penalty. A 300-seat hall in Jerusalem's convention center will be turned into a courtroom for the trial so that hundreds of newsmen can cover it.

New Housing Project Named For Late Premier Levi Eshkol Is Opened In Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Ramat Eshkol, a housing project in northeast Jerusalem, was opened yesterday when Housing Minister Mordecai Bentov handed the keys to the apartments to their first residents. Some 96 persons moved into the apartments built on former Jordanian territory which had been unused. Mr. Bentov said the apartments, named for the late President Levi Eshkol, will become available at a rate of 100 to 150 new units per month until the target figure represents the first stage in the project under which 40,000 Jews will move into the new quarters and the restored Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City within three years.

JTA Begins New Program To Train Journalists For American Jewish Press

NEW YORK, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Establishment of an interne-training program to help meet the critical shortage of trained newsmen for the American Jewish press was announced today by Robert H. Arnow, President of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He disclosed that an initial fund had been created to finance the interne program and carry it through its pilot stages.

In its first stages, the plan will provide for the employment on the JTA staff in New York and Washington of American Jewish students attending schools of journalism in those areas. They will cover news assignments and perform other editorial functions under the supervision of the JTA editors. These student-internes will be employed on a full-time basis during their school vacations and on a part-time basis during the school year.

The operation will gradually be extended, Mr. Arnow said, to provide for the placement of internes from schools in other parts of the country on the staffs of leading American Jewish newspapers in their home towns or school areas.

"In this way," Mr. Arnow said, "in addition to helping these newspapers overcome their critical staffing problems, these young men and women will be able to familiarize themselves with the problems of editing and publishing a Jewish newspaper and with the life of the organized Jewish community. It is our belief that a substantial number of these internes of ours will find enough of a challenge and enough of a promise in the Jewish press to be willing to make their careers in that area."

"In its third phase, the training program will send journalism school graduates to Israel for a post-graduate interne-study program there. The interne will combine the study of Jewish history and culture and of the Hebrew language with reporting from Israel for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. This will give him an opportunity to familiarize himself with the current situation and life in the Jewish State."

After this internship - reporting assignment, Mr. Arnow pointed out, "these young men and women will be uniquely prepared to fill positions of responsibility in the American Jewish press and to form a cadre of qualified, informed professionals. If some of these internes should ultimately decide that they do not want to build their careers in the field of Jewish journalism," Mr. Arnow noted, "they will carry into the general press the understanding of Israel's problems and of American Jewish life that they had acquired in their internship."

The JTA President declared that "a major problem in the American Jewish press today is the tremendous shortage of qualified young newsmen possessing the professional skills, the essential Jewish background and the commitment to take over in the American Jewish newspaper field as a pioneer generation of editors disappears."

"There is an increasing awareness in the American Jewish community of the role an informed, effective press can perform. I believe that this awareness will, increasingly, be reflected in the creation of economic conditions that will make the Jewish field as rewarding as other phases of journalism in this country. Given that basis, our present effort is directed to attracting qualified young men and women to enter the field."

"We have already established contact with the administrations of several schools of journalism with a view to selecting qualified candidates who can commence their internship before the end of the year," Mr. Arnow said.

Launching of the initial interne-training program was made possible through creation of a special fund by Maurice Linder, Hermann Merkin and Mr. Arnow.

Bill Sent To Nixon, District Of Columbia May Get Its First Jewish Historical Museum

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 (JTA) -- A bill passed by the Senate and sent to President Nixon for his signature yesterday may result in the establishment of the first Jewish historical museum in the District of Columbia. The measure authorizes the District government to lease a former synagogue, now designated as a national landmark, to the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington for use as a museum.

The synagogue was built between 1873 and 1876 in downtown Washington and for several generations housed the Adas Israel congregation. The congregation moved to a new site after World War II and the old building has been used for many purposes since then in what is now a predominantly Negro neighborhood. The Historical Society, however, may decide to locate the museum at a different site which the District government would provide. There has been debate over a new site because of frequent muggings in the old neighborhood. In any event, the D.C. City Council would provide a \$60,000 restoration grant to be matched by a sum from the Jewish Historical Society.

Ten Scholarships Are Offered To New Jersey Students For Study In Israel

JERSEY CITY, N.J. Sept. 4 (JTA) -- Ten scholarships for high schools and universities in Israel will be offered to New Jersey students without regard to their religion, the Scholarships for Israel Committee announced today. The committee will defray the costs of the scholarships which are being offered to "initiate a more favorable and closer relationship between the American youth and the Israelis."

Albert M. Schulman, of Fort Lee, chairman of the committee, said that each scholarship will cover four months of an Ulpan school course and the eight-month academic year at Tel Aviv University, Bar Ilan University or the Goodman High School in Ashdod. It will include dormitory board and lodging.