

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

Thursday, October 16, 1969

No. 196

Wives Of 2 Israelis Detained In Syria Urge Hadassah Members To Work For Liberation

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- In a dramatic appeal at the banquet session of Hadassah's 55th annual convention here, Mrs. Naomi Samueloff, speaking for herself and Mrs. Tilda Muallem, called upon the United States Government and Trans World Airlines to work for the liberation of their husbands held captive in Syria since Aug. 29. The men were passengers aboard a TWA jetliner hijacked to Damascus by Arab terrorists. Mrs. Samueloff asked the U.S. and TWA to "live up to their obligations and not to abandon our husbands to their fate."

Mrs. Samueloff said that the men had no connection with the Israeli Army and that they were not politicians. Mr. Muallem, she continued, was returning to Israel from a family visit "and my husband was returning from a scientific trip to England, where he had been working with a group of English scientists investigating the climactic effect of heat on different ethnic groups."

She added that "almost two months have elapsed and the world seems to have forgotten our problem. We ask ourselves how can anything like this happen in the 20th Century when people can fly to the moon and nothing can be done to get the release of two innocent civilians?" She thanked Hadassah for all its efforts and told the delegates that she belonged to a Hadassah family. Her husband, she said, was a graduate of the Hadassah Medical School which now employs him, and she was a graduate of the Hadassah nursing school.

The two women received a standing ovation. Mrs. Max Schenk, national president, in an emotional response, told the two women that Hadassah would continue its efforts to free the two men. She urged adoption of a resolution urging the United States Government, the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations and other concerned bodies to take prompt and effective action to prevent air piracy and its "catastrophic results." The approved resolution called specifically for the release of the two detainees.

The two wives were flying to Washington tonight where they were expected to address the Pioneer Women's convention, to meet with State Department officials, Senators and Congressmen. Arrangements were being made for them by the Israel Embassy. They were expected to stay in Washington for several days before going to the United Nations on Monday to meet with Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, president of the General Assembly. The Embassy is trying to arrange an appointment with Secretary-General U Thant. They will see officials of TWA on Tuesday.

(Miss Brooks conferred today with George Tomeh, the Syrian Ambassador, and Mr. Thant saw Yosef Tekoah, Israel's envoy. Observers believed both meetings dealt, at least in part, with the plight of the detainees.)

Presidents Conference Deplores Syria's Release Of Arab Hijackers

NEW YORK, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The release this week by Syria of two Arab terrorists who hijacked an Israel-bound TWA jet to Damascus on Aug. 29 while two Israeli passengers remain in Syrian custody was deplored today by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

In a telegram to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant, Rabbi Schacter said that the continued detention of the two civilians was "inexcusable" and that UN efforts to demand their release "must be unrelenting and re-intensified."

The two hijackers freed Monday were Leila Khaled, 24, and Selim al-Eisawi, both members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It was announced in Amman that they had returned to their "Che Guevara" unit at an undisclosed base in Jordan.

"The impotence of the UN in securing the release of the two kidnapped victims is deeply discouraging," the rabbi said, adding: "The fact that the innocent victims of air piracy remain in detention while those guilty of the crime of hijacking have been freed is a shocking commentary on the UN's failure to exercise whatever moral and political influence remains to it."

(The Washington Post today condemned Syria for releasing the hijackers while holding captive the Israelis. The newspaper deplored "regional logrolling" by the United Nations which, it said, will lead to Syria's election next week to a non-permanent seat on the Security Council. "A more unseemly instance of putting politics over principle is hard to imagine," the editorial said.

(Referring to the release of the Arab commandos, the Post asked: "How can a country claim a shred of self-respect or international standing when it treats the admitted perpetrators of a criminal act as though they were the victims and the victims as though they were the criminals?" The Post noted that the Syrians are trying to "save face" by holding out for an exchange of the two Israeli prisoners for two Syrian pilots who landed in Israel by mistake last year. "But an ex-

change of legally taken military prisoners for illegally captured civilians who are accused of no crime is repugnant to Israel. Understandably it balks at a step whose effect is to give international pirates a free pass," the Post said.)

(The Far Rockaway, N.Y. Jewish Community Council said today that it was launching a nationwide effort to obtain 100,000 signatures on a petition demanding the immediate release of the two Israelis. According to Rubin A. Dobin, council chairman, the petition, when completed, will be presented to General Assembly president Angie Brooks. He said Jewish and non-Jewish groups have been asked to enroll in a drive to get the signatures.)

Demonstrators For Hijack Victims Get Syrian Book Alleging Atrocities

LONDON, Oct. 15, (JTA) -- A book containing allegations of Israeli atrocities against Arab civilians and "expansionist" ambitions in the Middle East was distributed by Syrian officials today outside of the Syrian Embassy here. The Embassy was the scene of a demonstration by Jewish groups demanding the immediate release of the Israeli hijack hostages.

Interpol Expected To Shelve Proposals For Anti-Hijacking Measures

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The general assembly of Interpol, the international police organization, meeting in Mexico City, was expected today to shelve its secretariat's recommendations for measures to combat aerial hijacking. The measures advocated include changing of laws governing extradition of hijackers and preventive measures such as pre-embarkation screening of airline passengers to detect firearms.

Many nations at the meeting feel that international action is urgently needed. But Interpol is reluctant to become involved in political issues. The organization's rules specifically preclude its intervention in court investigation or discussions in cases "which have a political, religious or racial character."

This reasoning is not accepted by all of the police delegates, particularly those from South America. Some believe that unless an organization like Interpol seeks a solution, the problem of hijacking will grow. The general assembly is not likely to pass a resolution for transmission to individual governments. But informal discussions between national police forces are continuing and are seen by some delegates as being more useful than debates.

Red Cross Official Visits Egypt, Apparently To Take Up Case Of Downed Israeli Pilot

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- A high-ranking official of the International Red Cross went to Cairo today, apparently to take up the case of an Israeli jet pilot who has been held incommunicado since his plane was shot down Sept. 11 over the Suez Canal. Raymond Courvoisier, personal assistant to the Red Cross president, was expected to discuss the status of Capt. Giora Ron who has not been permitted visits by Red Cross representatives as stipulated by the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war. Another wounded Israeli pilot, Maj. Nissim Eshkahazi, whose plane was downed Aug. 19, has been visited by the Red Cross. Mr. Courvoisier was expected to propose an exchange of the two pilots for two Egyptian pilots held by Israel.

Predict Severe Measures To Cope With Israel's Drop In Foreign Currency Reserves

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Severe measures by the Government to combat Israel's foreign currency crisis were predicted here today following disclosure that the country's foreign currency reserves dropped last month to \$510 million which many economists consider to be the danger point.

David Horowitz, governor of the Bank of Israel, said on a television interview yesterday that Israel will seek \$90 million in "soft loans" from the International Monetary Fund as a first measure, but added that drastic steps must be taken to curb runaway private consumption. A "soft loan" is a loan at less than commercial rates over a longer period.

Mr. Horowitz said that private consumption in Israel has gotten "completely out of hand" in comparison with other countries but did not specify the measures that might be taken to curb it. Israeli newspapers predicted today that the Government would sharply increase the sales tax and taxes on travel abroad. These measures would affect mainly foreign-made goods and would reduce the amount of currency in circulation. Anticipation of Government measures to curb private spending has already set off a wave of buying, mainly of hard goods such as television sets and cars.

Real Buying Power Of Israeli Families Reported Up 21 Percent In Past Five Years

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The real purchasing power of Israeli families has increased 21 percent over the last five years according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The average urban family in Israel spends \$260 per month in the market-place apart from taxes and savings, the Bureau reported.

According to the statistics, the sums spent by Israelis vary with the ethnic origin of those who immigrated here in the last 15 years but not those who arrived prior to 1954. Among the more recent immigrants, families from Western countries were found to spend 15 percent more than the national average while those from Asia and Africa spent only 54 percent of the average. Native-born Israelis spend 21 percent above the average.

Israeli Jets Hit Egyptian Canal Positions Again; Ground Fighting Continues

TEL AVIV, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel Air Force jets attacked Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal twice today. They also hit guerrilla bases in Jordan, southeast of the Dead Sea, a staging area for recent saboteur attacks on the potash works at Sdom. A military spokesman reported that all aircraft returned safely to their bases.

An Israeli soldier was wounded by Egyptian mortar fire near the southern end of the Suez Canal yesterday, three Arab saboteurs were killed in an encounter with Israeli patrols near the Lebanese border, and a fourth was killed as he tried to make his way back into Lebanon. One Israeli border policeman of the Druze community was fatally wounded in the clash and a second Druze policeman was injured.

Israeli forces blew up five houses in the Nablus district belonging to confessed saboteurs who were captured in a recent round-up of guerrillas in the area.

(In Beirut, the Palestine Liberation Organization blamed "Israeli intelligence" agents for a rocket attack that blasted its headquarters there today. Seven persons were hospitalized and several others were cut by splinters and flying glass. Six rockets were fired at the PLO office from across the street. A senior official of the organization, Saafik el Hout, claimed the attack was planned by a man purporting to be a Dutch journalist who visited the headquarters last week. The PLO represents itself as an umbrella organization for various Arab commando groups fighting Israel.)

(Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad told the Cairo newspaper Al Akhar today that Egypt was "not ready to go any place" for peace negotiations with Israel which he said were impossible "under any circumstances." He asserted that his Government believed that recent international discussion of the so-called "Rhodes formula" was a product of "Zionist propaganda." Mr. Riad alleged that the Rhodes discussion was instigated by Israel to avoid withdrawing its troops from occupied areas.)

American Jews Join National Moratorium Day; Demonstrate In Capital, Elsewhere

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- American Jews added their voices to the national Vietnam war moratorium today. In the nation's capital they demonstrated their protest against the continuing bloodshed in special prayer services and other events conducted in synagogues. In Cincinnati, Ohio, students at the Hebrew Union College -- Jewish Institute of Religion (Reform) marched around the Federal Building seven times, blowing rams' horns to draw a comparison between the U.S. Government's Vietnam policies and the evils of Jericho.

Among the moratorium events in the capital were a nine-hour teach-in at Temple Sinai. Temple Emanuel offered an anti-war film and arranged for speakers and discussions. Tifereth Israel Synagogue conducted special afternoon and evening prayers devoted to peace. The Washington Hebrew Congregation, the capital's largest Reform congregation, invited members to a public peace service. All of the services were attended by large numbers of Government workers.

(In New York, the state commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States came out in support of President Richard M. Nixon's policies in Vietnam, a stand at variance with that taken by most major Jewish organizations. In a statement issued on the occasion of Moratorium Day, Jerome N. Nisraan said his organization had every faith in the Government's desire to "de-Americanize" the war.)

Israel Announces Opening Of Magistrate's Court In Kuneitra In Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel announced today that a magistrate's court will be opened shortly in Kuneitra, the main town in the occupied Golan Heights. The opening of the court will, in effect, substitute Israeli law in the area for Syrian law which remained in force after the Six-Day War. The court will deal with all legal procedures except for the functions of the military tribunal. The opening session of the court will be attended by members of the Cabinet and the legal branches of the Government.

Israeli Settlement In Latrun Area Will Be Established By Nahal

JERUSALEM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- The first Israeli settlement in the Latrun area of what was formerly Jordan will be established next week by Nahal members of the Poalei Agudat Israel youth movement. The new settlement will cover 750 acres. Nahal is an outfit that combines pioneering and military functions.

A new moshav (small-holders settlement), sponsored by Young Judea of the United States and supported by Hadassah, will be established shortly on the site of the defunct kibbutz Neve Illan in the former Jerusalem corridor. Dr. Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, said the moshav would establish several kinds of business ventures because the land is not suited to agriculture. They will include a motel, country club, school for retarded children and an electronics factory. Some members of the moshav will commute to work in Jerusalem 10 miles.

Eilat Is Developing Into Major Minerals Export Center, Tourism-Development Chief Says

TEL AVIV, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat is developing into a major center for the export of minerals, according to Moshe Kol, Minister of Tourism and Development, who visited the town yesterday.

Hadassah Adopts \$12,062,724 Budget; Largest Allocation Is For Medical Organization

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Hadassah adopted today a total budget of \$12,062,724 to maintain and extend its network of social service and medical institutions in Israel and for its activities in the United States. The budget shows that the largest allocation is \$6 million for the Hadassah Medical Organization. Also in the budget is \$2,100,000 for Youth Aliyah, the international child welfare movement of which Hadassah is the largest supporting agency, and \$750,000 for Hadassah's vocational education program. An allocation was also made of \$700,000 to the Jewish National Fund.

The Women's Zionist organization also acted on several resolutions. One called on the Nixon Administration to exert its influence to persuade the Arab states to start discussions with Israel with the declared intention of negotiating a sound, just and lasting peace. Another resolution appealed to the United Nations to take urgent and immediate action to rescue Jews in Arab countries and enable them to leave for lands ready to receive them.

The delegates also called upon the Soviet Government to permit Russian Jews freely to develop Jewish communal and religious life and institutions; to make available the educational institutions, schools, teachers, and other thing required to teach Soviet Jews their heritage; and to permit Jewish citizens to practice, enhance and perpetuate their culture and religion by the establishment of a program of institutions. Other resolutions called for the means to provide for full integration of the public schools in the United States and for enactment of the Foreign Assistance Act and adequate funds for its implementation.

In another convention session, a Reform rabbinical leader today deplored the failure of prominent churchmen and Government leaders to protest Arab incitement against the Jewish people in the aftermath of the El Aksa mosque fire in East Jerusalem. Rabbi David Polish, vice president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) told 2,000 delegates at the 55th annual convention that "the whole world knows that the Jewish people is guiltless of the fire."

Rabbi Polish, whose pulpit is Beth Emet, the Free Synagogue of Evanston, Ill., denounced the United Nations Security Council as "corrupted." He said "the world condemns Israel constantly. It does not call Iraq to account for the murder of Jews. It does not protest the state of hostage in which Arab Jews are kept."

Mizrachi Women Vote \$1,865,000 Budget, Elect Mrs. Milton S. Jacobson President

CHICAGO, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Mrs. Milton S. Jacobson of New York was elected national president of the Mizrachi Women's Organization of America at the organization's 44th annual convention here today. The Mizrachi Women adopted a \$1,865,000 budget for child care, youth aliyah, social service and vocational education programs in Israel, the largest budget in the organization's history. Mizrachi is a religious Zionist organization.

UJA Mission Taking Stock Of Needs Of Rumanian Jewry; Confers With Rabbi Rosen, Official:

BUCHAREST, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- A delegation of the United Jewish Appeal is taking inventory of the needs of Rumanian Jewry and exploring Jewish life in this country. The group, the third UJA mission to visit Rumania in recent years, is the guest of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania. The members are visiting schools, synagogues and various institutions and have had audiences with Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, Patriarch Justinian, head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church, and Prof. Dumitru Dogaru, head of the Department of Cults.

Another Western visitor here is Samuel Haber, executive vice president of the Joint Distribution Committee, who is meeting with Rabbi Rosen in connection with JDC activities in Rumania during 1970.

Bernard A. Rosenblatt Dead At 83; Was Lifelong Zionist, Attended Versailles Parley

NEW YORK, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Bernard A. Rosenblatt, a life-long Zionist and the first American elected to the World Zionist Executive in Jerusalem, who died here yesterday at the age of 83.

Born in Poland, Mr. Rosenblatt came to this country at the age of five and graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1909. In 1919 he accompanied Felix Frankfurter to the Versailles Peace Conference to assist his efforts to have a clause included in the Palestine Mandate opposing land speculation. He became a New York City magistrate in 1921 and was elected to the World Zionist Executive that same year. He floated the first Palestinian municipal bonds in the United States, the forerunner of the Israel Bond campaign. Mr. Rosenblatt served at various times as president of the Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod and was a vice president and honorary secretary of the Zionist Organization of America. He was an officer of several Jewish business enterprises in Palestine and was the first president of the American Zion Commonwealth, a land purchasing and settlement agency he founded in 1915 which established the communities of Balfouria, Afule and Herzlia and the Haifa Bay Settlement in Palestine. Mr. Rosenblatt's autobiography, "Two Generations of Zionism," was published here in 1967. He will be buried in Haifa next to the body of his wife, Gertrude, an organizer of Hadassah, who died in 1955.

Dr. Salemon Rodrigues Pereira, Chief Rabbi Of Dutch Sephardi Congregation, Dead At 81

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 15 (JTA) -- Dr. Salemon Rodrigues Pereira, chief rabbi of the Sephardi congregation here, died at the age of 81. Dr. Pereira, a noted classicist, served as chaplain to Dutch military forces in Britain during World War II. On several occasions he served as acting chief rabbi of the Ashkenazi congregations in Amsterdam and The Hague.