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Russians, Ukrainians Protest Reading Of Letter From Russian Woman On Son's Misery

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 25 (JTA)--Soviet and Ukrainian delegates objected angrily today when the United States representative at the United Nations Human Rights Commission read a letter from a Jewish mother in Moscow appealing to the world organization to intercede with Soviet authorities to permit her son to emigrate to Israel. Mrs. Rita Hauser was interrupted repeatedly by the Soviet and Ukrainian representatives as she read excerpts from a letter written by Mrs. Elizaveta Isaakovna Kapshitzka who claimed that her son, Vitold, a writer, has been unable to find work for two years because he has applied for permission to emigrate to Israel.

The letter was submitted to the UN Human Rights Division today by Lewis H. Weinstein, of Boston, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. It was shown to Ambassador Charles W. Yost, U.S. representative to the UN, and a copy was given to Mrs. Hauser. Mr. Weinstein told newsmen that the letter was brought to this country by a tourist who had visited Russia. It was dated Sept. 24, 1969 and contained Mrs. Kapshitzka's address in Moscow. The letter was written in Russian and translated by the Conference.

Mrs. Hauser brought it up in the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee today as a further indication of the repression suffered by Jews in the Soviet Union. She said the letter was shown to her as a private communication and that she had no doubts about its authenticity. As she read from its contents, the Soviet and Ukrainian delegates raised repeated points of order. They insisted that the letter was not relevant to the committee's agenda and that if it represented a formal complaint, it must be submitted through proper channels. The Third Committee chairman made no ruling. But Mrs. Hauser did not finish reading the letter.

The writer, who described herself as a bed-ridden invalid, said that her son was expelled from the writers committee of the literary fund of the USSR and from his trade union which has denied him work unless he "repents." She said that as a result, she and her son must subsist on her meager pension of 40 rubles a month--about \$45. Mrs. Kapshitzer is widowed. Her letter, addressed to the UN General Assembly, contained a plea to the Soviet Government to give her son "the right of free departure, give him the possibility of beginning life anew. I know that it is only the Soviet Government that has the power to solve this question. But there is such a thing as conscience in this world and someone must sense our pain," she wrote.

According to the letter, Mrs. Kapshitzer said that her son had never been particularly "nationalistic," a reference to the fact that in the Soviet Union Jews are officially classed as a nationality. She said he had received a truly "international" education and had always considered national enmities as the greatest of ills. "But he found it impossible to overlook the insulting attitude toward his people. He could not ignore the injustices and cruelties and could not reconcile himself to the degradation of man," she wrote.

'What Should He Repent Of?' Mother Asks United Nations

Mrs. Kapshitzer wrote that in 1967 her son had applied to the Government of Israel to be admitted as a "repatriate." In answer to the request he received an invitation to come to Israel. "The Soviet authorities agreed to consider my son's application for an exit permit only on condition that he give up his Soviet citizenship. He was thus forced to apply to the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR stating that he was giving up Soviet citizenship. He sent this statement on May 31, 1967 but until now he has received no official written reply--although he has been told orally that his request to give up Soviet citizenship has been denied," Mrs. Kapshitzer wrote.

After his expulsion from the writers committee and his trade union, the demand was put to him to "repent", she said. "But what should he repent of?" the letter asked. "Is devotion to one's people a crime? Are feelings of human and national dignity for bidden? Has a man no right to defend himself and his people from insults?" Mrs. Kapshitzer wrote that she could not understand why the Soviet authorities refuse to let her son leave. "He knows no state secrets. He has no intention and no possibility of harming the Soviet State in any way," she wrote. "Can the reason be just cruelty in principle?"

Mr. Weinstein, Conference chairman, gave Mr. Yost and Mrs. Hauser copies of Mrs. Kapshitzer's letter. Later Mr. Weinstein had it delivered to the UN's Human Rights Division. Members of the delegation who met with Mr. Yost and Mrs. Hauser were: Mr. Weinstein; Rabbi Israel Miller, past Conference chairman; Rabbi Saul I. Teplitz, vice chairman; Abraham J. Bayer, Conference coordinator; Mrs. Fay Schenk, Hadassah's national president; Phil Baum, director of the American Jewish Congress' commission on international affairs; Dr. William Korey, director of the B'nai B'rith UN Office; and Richard Maas, chairman of the American Jewish Committee's foreign affairs committee.

Social International Says It Will Back UN Initiative On Soviet Jewry

LONDON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--The secretary general of the Socialist International has written to United Nations Secretary General U Thant pledging the International's full support for any initiative which may be taken by the UN regarding the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Hans Janitschek also sent Mr. Thant copies of a Socialist International pamphlet containing the report of a special working committee that studied the situation of Russian Jews.

According to the pamphlet, the committee concluded that "the Jewish population of Russia experiences discrimination as a national minority group, as a religious community and as individuals, which clearly conflict with the principles of the Soviet Constitution and represents failure to honor guarantees concerning the human and civil rights of the individuals."

The report continued, "at a time when peoples of all countries see hopeful signs of international détente, discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union is one of the factors which provoke anxiety and which disturb the growing atmosphere of respect and good will that could lead to greater understanding and tolerance among peoples." The committee called for equal cultural and religious rights for Jews, as accorded other Soviet citizens, and the right of Soviet Jews to re-unite with their families abroad.

State Department Denies Egyptian Report That Sisco Plans Trip To Cairo

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--The State Department today denied Cairo reports that Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, is expected to visit Cairo next month before the Rabat, Morocco Arab summit conference to discuss America's most recent proposals for a Mideast settlement. Egypt has told the United States that it is willing to receive Mr. Sisco. That word was relayed to him by Ashraf Ghorbal, an Egyptian diplomat attached to the Indian Embassy here, who is looking after Egyptian interests. Mr. Sisco apparently had asked Cairo if it would be willing to receive him.

If Mr. Sisco were to visit Cairo, he would be the first top ranking American diplomat to do so since Egypt broke diplomatic relations with the U.S. during the 1967 Six-Day War. A number of Americans have visited President Gamal Abdel Nasser in the past two years, among them former Treasury Secretary Robert Anderson and David Rockefeller, president of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Sources here said that if Mr. Sisco went to Cairo, he undoubtedly would discuss the latest U.S. proposals for peace. They were given to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin in Washington last month and the State Department is still awaiting a Soviet reply. Egypt has rejected the proposals as unacceptable, claiming they favored Israel. But Moscow and Cairo were reportedly still discussing them.

In a related matter, officials here reported U.S. displeasure with what was said to be the circulation of distorted versions of the Government's proposal to the Russians on the "roll back" of Israeli troops from Sinai. It has been reported that America envisioned a return to the pre-May, 1948 British Mandatory frontier, which would leave Gaza in Israeli hands.

Officials here said that the State Department was "sensitive" to Israel's security needs and envisaged withdrawal of its forces only after direct Egyptian-Israeli negotiations on the issues of Sharm el-Sheikh, Gaza and a Sinai demilitarized zone. In the U.S. view, Israeli troops would "roll back" only after Israel had agreed with Egypt on security matters in the context of talks between the parties directly concerned.

AID Director Tells Senate Committee That Nixon Opposes \$40 Million For Desalting

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (JTA)--The director of the Government's Agency for International Development (AID) told the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday that the Nixon Administration is opposed to a \$40 million appropriation voted by the House last week as the United States share for a water desalination plant in Israel. The funds were inserted into the foreign aid bill when it was before the House Foreign Affairs Committee by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal, New York Democrat.

John A. Hannah, the AID head, appeared before the Senate committee with Secretary of State Aid William P. Rogers who urged it to restore the \$466 million cut from the Administration's foreign bill by the House last week. Mr. Rogers made no plea to retain the \$144.5 million in special military aid money for Israel, Taiwan and South Korea that the House had inserted on its own.

Neither Secretary Rogers nor Mr. Hannah expressed any opinion on the \$50 million earmarked for South Korea or the \$54.5 million for Nationalist China to purchase jet fighters in the U.S. But it was learned from other sources that the Administration is as opposed to the jets for Taiwan as it is to the desalination plant in Israel.

(The Israeli Foreign Ministry said today that the apparent American unwillingness to go ahead with the desalination plant is based on legitimate technological reasons. Sources said that Israel had been informed of this decision some time ago and that many economists and engineers in Israel had opposed the plan as not being economical. However, cooperation between the two countries over Israel's water problems will continue on other projects.)

Denies American Pressure To Sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Pact

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry officials said today that they had no knowledge of renewed pressure by the U.S. for Israel to sign the nuclear non-proliferation pact. Reports of pressure from foreign sources appeared in the local press. Ministry officials noted that Israel has made clear the conditions it wants before signing the nuclear pact. They include protection for nuclear industrial processors if they are to be inspected by foreign or international officials, and binding obligations that the nuclear powers will automatically and quickly come to the aid of a non-nuclear nation attacked by a nuclear power.

El Fatah Is Shaken By Israeli Success In Breaking Up Terrorist Groups

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25 (JTA)--Israel's successful crackdown on terrorist groups in recent days has badly shaken El Fatah, security sources said. The Palestinian guerrilla organization broadcast a coded warning to its members over its Cairo radio station yesterday to take cover. The message said, "Take care, Mother's condition very grave." The message was addressed to Mouhamed Iben el-Kassem, the code name of the El Fatah leader in Israel.

It was repeated at short intervals.

Israeli police and security forces have rounded up terrorist rings in Acre, Majdal Kurum, Nablus, Jenin, and in Hebron and the surrounding Judean hills. Among those arrested in Jenin was a former Jordanian intelligence officer who ran a ring that supplied explosives to terrorists in Majdal Kurum, an Arab village about 10 miles east of Acre. He was found in possession of a large quantity of explosive bricks, bazookas and machine-guns. Another arms cache discovered near Nablus yielded bazookas, shells and hundreds of hand grenades along with detonators, rifles and revolver ammunition. The weapons were concealed in the courtyard of the mukhtar (headman) of Djunied, a village said to be a recruiting headquarters for Israeli Arabs.

Meanwhile, terrorist activities, especially those involving Israeli Arabs, were vigorously denounced today by the Kadis (leaders) of Israel's Moslem religious courts. A statement signed by four Kadis, whose jurisdiction covers Moslem courts all over the country, said that terrorist activities were a violation of the teachings of the Koran and are bound to hurt the Arab minority and to harm the Arab-Jewish co-existence." It called on Israeli authorities "to mete out just punishment to the perpetrators of these crimes" and urged Israeli Arabs "to take positive and effective steps to dissociate themselves from destructive activities."

Rachamim Arrives In Switzerland For Trial In Killing Of Arab Terrorist At Zurich

ZURICH, Nov.25(JTA)--Mordechai Rachamim, the El Al security guard who gunned down one of four Arab terrorists who attacked an Israel airliner at Zurich airport early this year, arrived here today to face trial. He is charged with murder under extenuating circumstances and faces a minimum penalty of one to five years in prison or a maximum of 10 years imprisonment at hard labor. His lawyers, Hans Meisser and Georg Brunschvig, are confident that the jury will acquit him. Swiss police took elaborate security precautions when Mr. Rachamim arrived because of threats against his life by Arabs. Police reportedly had received information that members of the Popular Front for the liberation of Palestine were in Switzerland intent on murdering Mr. Rachamim in revenge for the slaying of the terrorist.

The young Israeli was driven from the airport by security police to an undisclosed residence near Zurich where he was being guarded by detectives. His trial will open on Thursday at Winterthur, a town considered safer than Zurich from a security standpoint. Mr. Rachamim was accompanied by Gabriel Bach, the Israel State Attorney who will observe the trial and assist the defendant's lawyers if necessary.

The Winterthur court is linked by an underground tunnel to an adjacent prison where three Arab terrorists are presently incarcerated awaiting trial for murder of an Israeli pilot trainee, Yoram Peress, who was fatally wounded in the Zurich attack. If convicted, they face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. One of the Arabs is a 21-year-old girl who taught school in the Gaza district. They will be tried along with Rachamim.

The defendant will face three judges and a panel of nine jurors. Elaborate security preparations have been made in the court. It is divided by a bullet-proof glass partition behind which only the four defendants and their lawyers will be permitted. Fewer than a half dozen journalists will be admitted to the trial, including JTA correspondent Edwin Eytan. Spectators will also be limited and all persons entering the courtroom will be searched for concealed weapons.

Israeli Orthodox Educators Says they Will Not Allow Schools To Be 'Underprivileged'

JERUSALEM, Nov.25(JTA)--Orthodox educators complained today that the religious school network in Israel has been "underprivileged" for years and is "not going to take it any longer." Rabbi Zvi Moshe Neriah, a Knesset member who heads the Bnei Akiba Yeshivot, acknowledged a report by the Education Ministry last week that religious schools are now getting over six percent more of the new school buildings than the general school system. But, he said, the ministry failed to disclose that in past years, religious schools received 60 percent less than the others of new school construction. Under Israel law the State supports two school systems, one religious and the other general. There is also an independent religious school network run without state support by the Agudat Israel. However, it receives support from many local authorities. The National Religious Party is demanding the portfolio of education and culture for itself in the new Cabinet. But observers here believe it will settle for a deputy minister ship. The Education Minister has been traditionally drawn from Labor ranks.

Canada Plans Protest To Egypt Over Censorship Of Sharp's Cairo Press Conference

OTTAWA, Nov.25(JTA)--Canada will protest censorship by Egypt of news reports of a press conference conducted in Cairo recently by Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs. Mr. Sharp told the House of Commons here yesterday that his department will lodge an official protest with the Government of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. He added that he might follow up by expressing his personal displeasure to the Egyptian Ambassador in Canada.

The Egyptian Government apparently did not want comments attributed to Col. Nasser by Mr. Sharp published from Cairo. It was particularly concerned that Mr. Sharp's remark that Col. Nasser did not rule out a peaceful settlement with Israel might be misunderstood by other Arab nations. The censorship of reports of Mr. Sharp's press conference, held last Sunday in the Canadian Embassy in Cairo, has reportedly caused a furor among foreign press agencies in the Egyptian capital. Three news agencies there--the Associated Press, Reuters, and United Press International--told the Government that it was the most "flagrant and insulting case" of censorship yet.

Credit for censoring the reports was claimed by Mohammed Abdel Gawad, chief censor for all outgoing foreign press reports at the official Middle East News Agency. All such reports must be filed through the Agency's wires. There the censorship is "blind"--meaning that reporters have no way of finding out how much the reports have been altered or slashed before the Agency sends them out.

Elderly Jews In Boston, Fearful Over Mounting Crime, Invite In Defense League

BOSTON, Nov. 25(JTA)--Elderly Jewish residents in several parts of the Boston area, growing desperate over a mounting wave of crime in the streets which they believe to be directed primarily against Jews, have called on the controversial Jewish Defense League for help. Reports of violence against elderly Jews in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan, prompted about 75 of them to meet last week with Rabbi Meir Kahane, director of the JDL, to discuss the formation of a chapter here.

Rabbi Mordecai Savitsky, a spokesman for the Boston Jews, said that assaults, robberies and beatings have become so frequent in some neighborhoods that elderly Jews are afraid to leave their homes and have stopped coming to the synagogue on Friday nights to pray. He said the situation has gotten worse in the past six or eight months. Victims have described their assailants as youths between 12 and 17 years of age. Rabbi Savitsky said it was obvious that the attacks "are definitely pointed against Jews" but he did not know if they were organized.

Rabbi Kahane, who is Orthodox and who claims that his organization has 7,000 members, was called to Boston to describe how the JDL works. The organization claims to protect Jewish life and property in racially tense, high crime areas of major cities, especially New York. It has been denounced by most major Jewish organizations as a vigilante group that does more harm than good. The Boston Jews plan to meet with Mayor Kevin White to seek more police protection. Rabbi Kahane told them that "if the Government and police can't provide the safety that is desired, then it is up to Jewish organizations to provide it."

Marine Commandant Orders Probe Into Allegations Of Anti-Semitic Abuse Of Recruit

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25(JTA)--The Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, Gen. Leonard Chapman, Jr., has ordered a formal investigation of charges that a Marine recruit was brutally treated by non-commissioned officers at the Parris Island, S.C. Marine training base because he is Jewish. The investigation was requested by the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. after a New York Congressman, Mario Biaggi, brought the case to light.

Rep. Biaggi, a Democrat, said he had evidence that the recruit was singled out for persecution because of his faith and that anti-Semitic harassment and physical assaults caused him to suffer a mental breakdown for which he is presently undergoing treatment at a New York State mental hospital. The recruit, whose name was withheld at his mother's request, was discharged from the Marine Corps last July "for the convenience of the Government." According to Rep. Biaggi, the recruit was beaten by non-commissioned officers who allegedly painted a Star of David on his forehead and called him "Jewboy" and "Bagel."

A Marine Corps spokesman said today that the allegations would be thoroughly examined and that developments in the investigation would be made known by the commanding general of the Parris Island base. He added, "the Commandant does not condone nor will he tolerate maltreatment of any Marine whatever his status. Every case of alleged maltreatment reported to him is investigated and appropriate action, including disciplinary action where warranted, is taken."

\$300,000 Endowment To Create Chair In Law At Dropsie Is Established By Judge

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 25(JTA)--A \$300,000 endowment to create a chair in Jewish and American law at Dropsie University here has been established by Judge Abraham Lieberman, a philanthropist of Weehawken, N.J., Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, president of Dropsie, said the endowment would make possible the study and teaching of the inter relationship of Jewish law and Hebrew jurisprudence and Israel and American law. "This professorship will open up new areas for students and scholars to delve into the history and development of Jewish and American jurisprudence," Dr. Katsh said.

Moravia's Chief Rabbi Relates Sad Facts And Figures In 94th Birthday Interview

LONDON, Nov. 25(JTA)--The Jewish community in Moravia is of advanced age and numbers only a fraction of what it did before World War II, according to Dr. Richard Feder, chief rabbi of Czechoslovakia. Rabbi Feder gave some sad facts and figures in an interview published on the occasion of his 94th birthday. He said only 1,200 Jews remained in Moravia out of a pre-war figure of 41,000. A third of them are over 65 years of age and 700 live in Brno. Dr. Feder said the Nazis deported 20,000 Moravian Jews and only 1,850 came back after the war. He said he thought that about 20,000 Jews left Moravia before the war and after 1945.

In another Czechoslovakian development, the 15th Century castle of Budyn, near the site of the Terezin concentration camp, has been put at the disposal of the Jewish State Museum of Prague. The museum will display part of its exhibits at the castle, according to an information bulletin published by the Council of Jewish Communities of Bohemia and Moravia.

West German President Attends Wreath Laying Ceremony At Amsterdam Deportation Site

AMSTERDAM, Nov. 25(JTA)--Dr. Gustav Heinemann, president of the West German Federal Republic, laid a wreath yesterday at a former theater here which the Nazis used during World War II as a staging area for Dutch Jewish deportees. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and her consort, Prince Bernhard, attended the memorial ceremonies, the first event of President Heinemann's official visit to Holland. Also present was Prof. Ivo Samkalden, Amsterdam's Jewish Mayor.

Israel Government, Jewish Agency Expect 60,000 Immigrants To Arrive In 1970

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25(JTA)--Government and Jewish Agency officials expect 60,000 immigrants to come to Israel in 1970 and are adjusting their absorption machinery to that forecast. The figure was given at a meeting yesterday of the joint Government-Jewish Agency Immigrant Coordination Authority attended by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon who heads the Absorption Ministry and Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency. Instructions were issued to all departments concerned with immigration to plan their activities on the basis of 60,000 new arrivals next year.