

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## U.S. Urged To Set Up International Inquiry To Investigate Conditions Of Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA)--An "international inquiry" under United Nations auspices to investigate "Soviet action against its Jewish population" was urged at a House sub-committee hearing here today on the plight of Soviet Jewry. The proposal was made by Stanley Lowell, vice president of the American Jewish Congress and vice chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Mr. Lowell also outlined a program of action on Russian Jews that he said could be undertaken by the U.S. Congress and the State Department. He was one of five experts who testified at the hearing conducted by Rep. Leonard Farbstein, a New York Democrat, chairman of the subcommittee on Europe of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The hearing was held at the U.S. Customs Court House.

Mr. Lowell called on both houses of the Congress, by joint resolution, to "demand that the U.S. State Department and Charles Yost, U.S. Ambassador to the UN, call for an international inquiry into Soviet action against its Jewish population" and that the State Department "make direct inquiry of the Soviet Union's Foreign Ministry with respect to the status of Jews in the USSR." Mr. Lowell also proposed that "world opinion be marshalled to demand that the USSR permit those of its Jewish citizens who wish to leave to emigrate freely to Israel and other lands that are willing to receive them." Mr. Farbstein opened the proceedings by stating that "in my opinion Jews are being held virtual prisoners in the Soviet Union." He was joined at the hearing by another member of his sub-committee, Rep. John Buchanan, Republican of Alabama. Moshe Docter, specialist in Jewish minorities research, said, "there is no such thing as a Soviet Jewish community" because Jews there are "forbidden to create one, nor is one allowed to exist." He attributed Soviet policy toward Jews chiefly to a "potent residue of traditional anti-Semitism." He added, however, that the "worst phase" ended with Stalin's death in 1953.

Abraham Bayer, coordinator of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, told the hearing that "silence and diplomatic good will" are not enough to deal with the problem. Mr. Bayer disclosed that Vice President Agnew had written on April 8 to Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, expressing his "concerns" over the plight of Soviet Jewry. Albert I. Chernin, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia, said that what may be most important "is for U.S. Government officials to hold Soviet officials to the promise of (Premier Alexei N.) Kosygin to permit emigration and to press them to enable Soviet Jews to have the cultural and religious institutions that are available to other national religious groups and that are consistent with Soviet law and official ideology." Jerry Goodman, director of European affairs of the American Jewish Committee, said the Kremlin's anti-Israel campaign has become "increasingly shrill" in the past three months and has "surpassed in hysteria" Russia's campaign against Red China, Czechoslovakian liberals and Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. He said Moscow's policy was designed to "appease" its Arab allies.

## Israeli Government To Ask U.S. For \$1.5 Billion In Economic Aid

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA)--The Israeli Government plans to ask the United States for \$1.5 billion in economic aid to be extended in \$300 million annual installments over the next five years. According to informed quarters here, the request will be conveyed to Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco who is due here tomorrow on the second stage of his "orientation tour" of Middle East capitals. Beyond that, the Sisco visit is regarded here mainly as an opportunity to air and clarify American and Israeli views on the current Middle East situation. Within that broad framework it is welcomed by Israeli officials although Israelis know they will be facing the man who was a major contributor to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Mideast plan which he outlined last Dec. 9 and which Israel flatly rejected.

In their talks with Mr. Sisco, Israeli officials are expected to emphasize those areas where American and Israeli interests converge or where Israel is in a position to serve U.S. interests. The main area of agreement is on the danger of the Sovietization of the Middle East. In addition, Israel believes it can convince the United States that its deterrent strength alone is able to preserve the pro-Western regimes of Jordan and Saudi Arabia from the encroachments of radical Arab governments and guerrilla take-overs. The request for economic aid is considered of paramount importance. It exceeds considerably the \$1 billion requested by Premier Golda Meir when she visited President Richard M. Nixon in Washington last September. Israeli economic planners say they need \$300 million annually to offset Israel's rapidly depleting foreign currency reserves that are already dangerously low.

## Israelis Concerned That Sisco Visit To Cairo Opened U.S.-Egypt Dialogue

While Israel has formally thanked the U.S. for the offer of \$100 million in economic aid extended by Secretary Rogers when he announced the withholding of more Phantom and Skyhawk jets, government officials privately are disappointed at what they regard as a "drop in the bucket." (Informal talks began in Washington today between State Department officials and Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin on the \$100 million credit promised by the Nixon Administration. At the same time, the U.S. State Department announced that Mr. Sisco left Cairo today for Nicosia, Cyprus and will then proceed to Tel Aviv. Prior to his departure he conferred with Ambassador Fwaj, President Nasser's special adviser on foreign affairs. On Sunday, Mr. Sisco conferred with President Gamal Abdel Nasser for

an hour and 45 minutes. The State Department described the talks as "frank and cordial" and said they gave both sides "a chance to present opposing points of view." Mr. Sisco also conferred with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad and other officials in Cairo. His meetings with Egyptian leaders were the first by a high ranking American diplomat since Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Washington during the June, 1967 war.)

Some Israeli circles expressed concern today that Israel would be in for "a rough time" in its relations with the U.S. if Mr. Sisco's visit to Egypt succeeded in opening the door for a "dialogue" between Washington and Cairo. These circles had misgivings over press reports that Egyptian leaders were pleased by Mr. Sisco's assertion that the U.S. Government subscribes fully to the United Nations Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution in all its phases. While Israel has accepted the resolution in principle, it rejects the Arab interpretation that it is self-implementing and that Israel must withdraw from all occupied territories before the rest of the resolution is put into effect. While in Israel Mr. Sisco will hold a working session with Foreign Minister Abba Eban and his newly appointed assistant for American and Canadian affairs, Mordechai Gazit. He will also meet with Premier Meir, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. (According to the Itinerary published by the U.S. State Department today, Mr. Sisco will go from Tel Aviv to Amman, Jordan and then to Beirut, Lebanon. He is due in Teheran next week for a conference with the U.S. chiefs of mission to the Mideast.)

### Britain's Foreign Secretary Urges Arab States To Make Clear Israel Has Right To Exist

LONDON, April 13 (JTA)--Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart said today that he thought Israel would "go a long way" to achieve peace with her neighbors and urged the Arab states to "make it clear beyond doubt that they accept Israel's right to exist as the kind of state she wants to be." Mr. Stewart's "shades" counterpart in the Conservative Party, Sir Alec Douglas Home, proposed a United Nations peace conference attended by the Big Four powers and Israel, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria to work out a peace settlement, allowing the Arabs to avoid direct talks with the Israelis. Both leaders spoke during a Parliamentary debate on the Middle East. Mr. Stewart, appealing for "reassurance" on both sides, said that security was as essential for Israel as their occupied territories were for the Arabs. He proposed "slight" border changes and asserted that the Jerusalem problem cannot be discussed until other disputed issues are settled. Sir Alec proposed a Mideast truce "on land, sea and in the air" and, as a first step, the withdrawal of all troops, at least beyond artillery range of each other. He suggested that United Nations troops be inserted into the areas evacuated by Israel with orders to stop any military incursions. Mr. Stewart said Middle East peace hopes were based on the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution.

### Israel Claims Egypt Disguised Military Installation To Look Like School

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA)--Israel claimed today that Egypt deliberately disguised a military installation hit by the Israel Air Force on April 8 to make it look to foreign journalists like a bombed out school. Cairo accused Israel last Wednesday of bombing a primary school in Bahr el Bakar, a village in the Nile delta, killing 30 children and one adult and wounding 36 children and ten adults. Israel disputed the charge and made public reconnaissance photographs that showed a military installation surrounded by barbed wire, trenches, check posts and military vehicles. According to an Israeli spokesman, the Egyptians worked frantically for three days to remove all traces of the military nature of the target. Jeeps and trucks were driven off, barbed wire was removed and trenches were filled. Only then were journalists taken to the site, the spokesman said.

(London Times correspondent Paul Martin said in a dispatch from Bahr el Bakar today that he saw rubble of what was apparently a makeshift school house and no evidence of any military installations or military equipment in the vicinity.) The Martin story, which was also carried today by the New York Times said, "Little remains to distinguish the school from other monuments of war save the torn and stained pages of elementary school books; splintered desks and blackboards scattered through the mass of rubble and twisted iron." Mr. Martin's dispatch confirmed an Egyptian claim that the road from Husseinia, where the bomb victims were hospitalized, to Bahr el Bakar was a hazardous one. That was given as an excuse by the Egyptians for not taking correspondents immediately to the alleged bombing site. Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoa claimed in a letter to Secretary General U Thant last Thursday that the road was a good one and that the Egyptians were stalling for time while they concocted a "distorted" version of the April 8 events.)

### Official Says Police Used Force Against Students When Students Resorted To Force

JERUSALEM, April 13 (JTA)--Minister of Police Shimon Hillel told the Knesset today that student demonstrators in Jerusalem last week used force and only then did the police respond in kind. He said one demonstrator told him that orderly demonstrations were not enough to attract attention and therefore the youngsters decided on a disorderly one to gain the attention of the world press. The demonstrations, by several hundred Hebrew University students and members of various leftist and Communist factions, broke out twice in Jerusalem in front of Premier Golda Meir's office last Wednesday and outside her home on Saturday. The youngsters were protesting government policies which, they alleged, prevented peace with the Arabs. Mr. Hillel spoke in reply to charges of police brutality. Meanwhile leaders of the leftist Mapam faction today dissociated themselves from those demonstrators who claim they came from kibbutzim of the Mapam movement. According to the leaders, those youth broke away from Mapam to join an Israeli New Left faction. Tel Aviv police chief Yehuda Praga today defended the use of force by Jerusalem police against several hundred youths who demonstrated Saturday. Mr. Praga said if demonstrators employed force the police had no alternative but to respond with force. The police official said police would not interfere with orderly demonstrations. Referring to rumors that leftist groups planned demonstrations here against police force in Jerusalem, Mr. Praga said measures would be taken to counter them.

## UN Committee Probing Human Rights In Israeli-Occupied Territories Hit Back At Tekoah

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 13 (JTA)--The United Nations special committee investigating human rights in Israeli-occupied territories, hit back against a charge made by Israel's Ambassador Yosef Tekoah that the committee's first two witnesses in London were well known for their anti-Israel bias. The committee's answer was released by the United Nations' information officer accompanying the group in London and Arab capitals. Mr. Tekoah, on April 3, charged that John Reddaway, former deputy commissioner of UNRWA, had "gained notoriety by his hostility to Israel and that his activities were the subject of an official complaint by Israel to UNRWA--it was shortly thereafter that he left the agency." The Israeli ambassador also charged that the second witness, Michael Adams was "a well-known Arab propagandist in the employ of Arab information services in London" and "receives regular remuneration from them."

Replying to these charges, the committee's spokesman asserted that "the Permanent Mission of Israel (to the UN) has acted in such a manner without attempting to ascertain the facts..." He added that the three-member group took precautions to ensure a full and objective investigation by contacting "persons with a first-hand knowledge of the conditions in the occupied territories and persons with information gained from visits to the area." Those contacted were "not only persons whom the Permanent Mission of Israel chooses to describe as 'pro-Arab,' but persons who may be described as pro-Israel, among whom was the Consul-General of Israel in London." The committee, its spokesman added, placed paid notices in the newspapers of all the countries which it is visiting and in two Israeli newspapers, the Jerusalem Post and Ha'aretz, requesting persons with evidence to testify.

A statement submitted to the committee by Mr. Reddaway said it was "totally untrue" that he resigned from UNRWA after the complaint by Israel. He contended the flak was due to "a sensationalist report by a Jewish correspondent in London," about a "press conference which I gave at the United Nations Information Center in London in July, 1967. It was well over a year later that I relinquished my post." Mr. Adams wrote to the committee stating that "I am not in the employ of Arab information services and that I do not now receive, nor have I received at any times in the past, remuneration from such services. This plainly libellous assertion is unhappily characteristic of the tactics employed by official Israeli and unofficial pro-Israeli information services."

## Israeli Jets Blast Targets 20 Miles Inside Egypt; Israeli Soldier Killed

TEL AVIV, April 13 (JTA)--Israel Air Force jets blasted targets about 20 miles inside Egypt today and also raked Egyptian military positions in the central and southern sectors of the Suez Canal zone. According to a military spokesman the first of three attacks was launched at 11:0 a.m. local time at military installations east of Hilwan and in the El Manzala zone northeast of the Nile delta. Two further attacks in the afternoon struck at artillery and anti-aircraft gun emplacements in the canal zone. All planes returned safely from all missions, the spokesman said. An Israeli soldier was killed yesterday by Egyptian fire in the southern section of the canal zone. He was identified as Pvt. Meir Sith, 18, of Ramat Gan, whose father, Abesalom Sith, is the Tel Aviv municipal psychologist. A military spokesman reported heavy artillery exchanges across the waterway during the past 24 hours. A bazooka shell was fired at an Israeli car in the Jordan Valley near Nahal Meholah yesterday. There were no casualties.

## Illinois Lt. Governor Warns Against Anti-Israeli Statements In Church Press

CHICAGO, April 13 (JTA)--The church press and publicists have an important role as conciliators in this turbulent world, Lieutenant Governor Paul Simon of Illinois told several hundred delegates attending the recent Religious Communications Congress and declared he had seen too many anti-Israeli comments in the church press. Recalling that the church press had in many cases been silent on Hitler in the 1930's, Mr. Simon expressed the hope that similar mistakes would not be made today in the face of the needs of a people who have suffered from church indifference. "We can be both pro-Israeli and pro-Arab," he said. "We must recognize the needs of all suffering people." The Democratic official, a son of a Lutheran minister married to a Catholic said that in his half Catholic half Lutheran home in a small Illinois community that is all white and all Christian he has a menorah on his door and menorah in his living room. This, he said, is a symbol that the Jewish people who have suffered Catholic and Lutheran prejudices must today be accepted as individuals.

## Russians Publish Letter By 70 Jewish 'Veteran Bolsheviks' Who Denounce Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 13 (JTA)--The Communist Party newspaper Pravda has published a letter signed by 70 "veteran bolsheviks of Jewish nationality" denouncing alleged atrocities committed by Israel "as a result of the Zionist-Fascist policy of the bourgeois government of Meir, Dayan, Eban and Shazar." The English text of the letter and the names of all the signatories along with the year of their admission to the Communist Party was circulated here today in "Review of the Soviet Press," a news digest published by the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. The letter was apparently prompted by Egyptian claims that Israeli bombers blasted a primary school in the Nile delta April 8, killing 30 children. But the greater portion of its text was devoted to extolling Soviet treatment of its Jewish citizens and recalling the role played by Russian Jewish workers in the bolshevik revolution and in the war against Hitler. Asserting that the Soviet Union has granted all nationalities, including the Jews, the fullest rights and opportunities, the letter continued, "To the Israeli Zionists we say: stop your filthy solicitation. You won't find a single traitor among the Jewish working people of the Soviet Union." The dates next to the names of each of the signers indicated that about half of them were admitted to the "Communist Party" between 1903 and 1914. The letter added: "We have not forgotten the fight of our Party against the Zionists, Bundists and other Jewish nationalists... We cannot without the greatest of anger and indignation" hear about "the destruction of Arab cities and other inhabited points, and the massacre of women, children and aged people."

## AJC Committee Study Shows Charges By Pres. Pompidou On Chicago Visit Are Untold

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA)—Charges by French President Georges Pompidou and his staff regarding their visit to Chicago last February 28—that demonstrators were unruly and ill-mannered, and that the police were in complicity with them—are unsupported by the facts, according to a report released today by the American Jewish Committee. The report by Milton Ellerin, a former FBI agent, and director of AJC's Trends Analysis Division, was based on information obtained from 19 eyewitnesses to the event, plus examination of television films and news pictures. Among the eyewitnesses were high Chicago Police Department officials who accompanied M. and Mme. Pompidou when they entered and left the Palmer House, where the demonstration occurred, and a security officer who also accompanied them in and out. Other witnesses were city officials assigned to the demonstration, TV and radio reporters on the scene, and several youths who allegedly accosted the Pompidous as they left the hotel.

Chief among Mr. Ellerin's conclusions was that the unwitting offenders were not demonstrators—most of whom were Jewish, protesting France's decision to sell planes to Libya—but rather the accompanying members of the press and security people. "The evidence is clear that the demonstrators did not at any time jostle, strike, assault, spit upon, threaten, or otherwise abuse the visiting French dignitaries," he stated. He also declared that no evidence could be found to suggest that the Chicago Police Department conspired with the demonstration planners to embarrass or harass the Pompidou party. Commenting on the conduct of the demonstrators as they assembled and afterwards Mr. Ellerin reported:

"It was a heterogeneous demonstration, predominantly Jewish, although nuns in habit were observed marching with the demonstrators. It is a matter of record that not one single demonstrator was arrested and no violence erupted despite the fact that one demonstrator was injured when struck by ice cubes dropped from a hotel window, and the release of a stench bomb by a counter-demonstrator." Mr. Ellerin added that "Palmer House management reported that in all their years of experience with demonstrations, the one on the evening of February 28 was among the most orderly and peaceful on record." Quoting Deputy Police Superintendent James E. Rocheford, the report noted that "security precautions around the Palmer House at that moment were stronger than those provided for President Nixon when he visited Chicago approximately a month before."

## Scholars From U.S., Israel and Canada Participate in Colloquia On Jewry

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA)—Distinguished scholars from the U.S., Canada and Israel have been participating in academic colloquia on contemporary Jewry, at the Carnegie Endowment International Center. These seminars, which conclude tonight, are part of the Tenth Anniversary Conference of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and coincide with the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Institute's International Committee, according to Philip M. Klutznick, of Chicago, chairman of the International Committee. Professor Moshe Davis, head of the University's Institute of Contemporary Jewry, and research professor in American Jewish History at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, said, "The Conference encompassed three main fields of academic endeavor: cross-fertilization of ideas among scholars of different disciplines; development of collaboration projects between faculty and graduate students; and the special role of the Institute in Jerusalem in the training of students of contemporary Jewish life and institutions on the expanding campus in the open society, and particularly in the United States.

Speakers and topics at the seminars that began Saturday were: Professor Davis on America and the Holy Land; Dr. Yehuda Bauer of the Hebrew University, on The Western World and the Period of the Holocaust; Professor David Sidorsky, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University will chair the seminar on The Interpretation and Expression of Jewish Experience in Modern Times; and a lecture on World Jewry Faces the Seventies, by the eminent philosopher Professor Nathan Rotenstreich of the Hebrew University. Professor Rotenstreich is a member of the International Institute of Philosophy and the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. Other participants included Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University and former Israeli Ambassador to the U.S., who is coming from Jerusalem for the express purpose of participating in the Conference; and Samuel Rothberg, president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University and chairman of the University's Board of Governors. The Office of Academic Affairs of the American Friends of the Hebrew University coordinated the Conference.

## BOAC Apologizes To Rabbi For Removing Kosher Meal; Claims It Was Not Official Policy

NEW YORK, April 13 (JTA)—British Overseas Airways Corporation reported it has sent a letter of apology to Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, chairman of the International Synagogue, for not fulfilling his pre-arranged request for kosher food on his March 6 flight from Ceylon to Singapore. Personnel on the plane, which stopped in Cairo before going on to Ceylon, had been unaware, through a "purely logistical" mixup of the request, and had removed the food, considering it excess, a BOAC spokesman said. He stated that "There is no policy restricting meals," and that BOAC had no knowledge of any written policy statement indicating a desire to avoid an Egyptian incident, which Rabbi Mowshowitz had charge was shown to him in flight.

## 27th Anniversary Of Warsaw Ghetto Revolt Observed; Street Renamed For Martyrs

PHILADELPHIA, April 13 (JTA)—The 27th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt was observed here yesterday at the city's annual Memorial Service to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs. The City Council renamed an intersection as the "Avenue of Remembrance" and said that the Martyrs' Monument there, erected by the Federation of Jewish Agencies and the Association of Jewish New Americans, "has become a shrine in reverent memory of the 85,000 Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto" and of the six million.