

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Monday, November 16, 1970

No. 220

Fisher: Jewish Survival Requires Commitment To Israel, U.S., Jewish Youth

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Nov. 15 (JTA)--Max M. Fisher of Detroit, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, declared last night that the three basic commitments required of American Jewry "as central to American Jewish survival and Jewish survival itself" are to the people of Israel, to the American future and to American Jewish youth. Speaking at the banquet session of the 39th General Assembly of the CJF, Mr. Fisher declared that the American Jewish response in the "truly fateful year" of 1971 could mark "the shape, the direction and the character of the decade ahead," and that "we must now surpass what we have done by many times, if we are to maintain our goals, to continue our progress and to see our best hopes fulfilled." Declaring that what was "at stake is nothing more or less than the actual survival of Israel's people and Israel itself," the Detroit Jewish leader said that the issue between Israel and its Arab neighbors "has just been escalated into something far more awesome and threatening. Israel's people are now directly confronted by the might and power of the Soviet Union." He said the answer of American Jewry to that new peril was to respond to Israel's call upon American Jews to raise an "unprecedented \$400 million," to take over "the entire burden of Israel's welfare costs."

In addition, Mr. Fisher told the 1,500 American Jewish communal leaders, "our communities require at least \$100 million additional for local and national agencies,"--a total of \$500 million "and we are obligated as well to assist the Israel Bond drive, which has also been asked to raise \$400 million." He added when "this awesome obligation was brought to the communities, no one doubted the need. No community, no leader, denied the necessity of Israel's request." Mr. Fisher said the second obligation was not only the obligation of every American citizen but also that "the American Jewish community has special obligations here as well." Specifically, he told the delegates, the issue before American Jews is that of the American Negro. He said American Jews had reacted with "shock and dismay" to the fact that "the extreme radical element of black America has openly adopted anti-Semitism as a weapon of attack, even while it protests racism, calls for black freedom and declares itself to be only anti-Zionist, not anti-Jewish." He stressed, however, that "responsible black leaders want no part of any anti-Semitism, they speak against it and they fight it."

Jews Must Seek Closer Ties With Blacks; Jewish Youths Getting Aid From Federations

Because the use of anti-Semitism is a device to "attack democracy itself," he said, American Jews must find answers to hate, "not just to protect the American Jewish position but to protect the meaning of democracy and the American future." Mr. Fisher also emphasized that American Jews and Jewish organizations "were in the forefront" of the equal rights revolution that began 15 years ago and that "for several years, our General Assemblies have reflected the American Jewish decision to help win this equal rights struggle" for black Americans. Warning that "black anti-Semitism gives us no excuse to withdraw our help to the great numbers who need it so desperately," the Jewish leader said that the "lasting way to achieve our purpose is to help overcome the injustices and degrading conditions which bred prejudice and problems." American Jews, he said, must help black Americans and all other underprivileged minorities with practical programs to improve their welfare, to provide training and education, to secure housing and jobs, and the same decencies of life that we ask for ourselves." Discussing the needs of American Jewish youth, Mr. Fisher recalled at the 38th CJF assembly in Boston last year, Jewish students appealed to the delegates to understand the problems of the young generation.

Mr. Fisher said many delegates came to Boston "knowing but not really believing that the American Jewish community" faced the "frightening possibility that we could lose almost an entire generation of our young people." A year later, he added, the fact was that the American Jewish leadership had not found "the magic answer for bringing back our youth. Any competent survey of our colleges would show that our sons and daughters are still slipping away in tragic numbers from the community we have built and the heritage we value." He noted that one response of the communal leadership last year had been a recommendation that local Federations put college students and youth-oriented faculty members on their boards and budget committees to involve them in community programs and decision making and that "a respectable number of Federations have now carried out this suggestion but we have not gone far enough." He then cited greater efforts. Some communities, he reported, had made special funds available to support "innovative student or faculty-initiated youth projects" and that some local Federations and national Jewish organizations were developing "various out-reach efforts" in which students and qualified adults "go and seek out other Jewish students, meeting them in their setting and involving them in meaningful Jewish activity."

Mr. Fisher reported other welfare funds were "working seriously to bring Jewish community services to the campus," the services the students themselves want" in personal counseling, pre-marriage counseling, vocational counseling "and help with drug abuse problems." He cited also Federation support for "free university studies in Judaism." Noting that Federations were beginning to examine the quality of Jewish education, he said "truly effective Jewish education" could significantly help build and raise Jewish commitment and he urged Jewish communities to face this responsibility "with their own complete commitment." He said it was the obligation of the adult community "to understand that our sons and daughters are not obligated to create their Jewish community in the exact image of our own."

Israel Softening Stand On Violations As Precondition For Returning To Talks

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The Israeli government appeared today to be leaning toward new, easier conditions for its return to the Jarring peace talks, suspended last Aug. 25 because of Egyptian violations of the standstill cease-fire. Premier Golda Meir will state Israel's position in a major speech scheduled for delivery to the Knesset tomorrow. According to unconfirmed reports, she will abstain from repeating Israel's demand for the removal of all Soviet missiles and missile sites from the Suez truce zone as a pre-condition for resumption of the talks. Such an omission would be of major significance, political observers noted, especially since Defense Minister Moshe Dayan omitted the usual demand from a widely reported speech in Haifa a week ago. According to sources here, Mrs. Meir is likely to say that Israel will resume its participation in the Jarring talks "when its demands are met." Such a formulation would open the way for a further exchange of views with the United States on conditions which, observers believe, will be considerably less than Israel's previous insistence on full restoration of the pre-cessate-fire military situation in the canal zone. According to some sources, Israel is placing less stress on the menace of Soviet missiles in Egypt because of the massive infusion of military hardware it is receiving and will continue to receive from the United States. According to these sources, Israel now regards as much more important the problem of reaching an understanding with Washington on its future boundaries.

The all important question of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories is expected to come up early in the Jarring talks once they are resumed. Israel wants the U.S. to scrap the so-called Rogers' plan, a program for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 borders made by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Dec., 1969. Israel may take this issue, rather than removal of the Soviet missiles from the canal zone, its condition for returning to the Jarring talks, sources said. Mrs. Meir was lavish in her praise of U.S. economic and arms aid to Israel in a speech to the Israel Manufacturers Assoc. in Tel Aviv last Thursday. In that speech she said that Israel would continue to insist on its conditions for resumption of the Jarring talks but did not specify what they were. She observed that with the Middle East conflict now part of a global confrontation Israel was lucky that it had "such a good friend as the United States." She conceded that "differences" existed between Washington and Jerusalem "on various matters" but added that the U.S. was ready "to meet Israel's defense requirements to an extent we have never dreamt of before." Nixon administration officials confirmed last week that Israel would receive \$500 million in U.S. aid, mainly to offset the cost of arms purchases. American officials are believed to regard the latest military shipments to Israel as more than off-setting whatever military advantage Egypt may have gained by deploying Soviet missiles and artillery in the canal zone during the first 90-day cease-fire.

The shipments reportedly include 18 more supersonic Phantom jets, 18 more sub-sonic Skyhawk jets, 10 M-60 and M-40 tanks, Shrike air-to-ground missiles and other arms and munitions. Observers here said that while there has been no overt pressure on Israel by the U.S. to return to the Jarring talks, the military supplies and the strong U.S. diplomatic support given Israel during the UN General Assembly's recent Mideast debate indicated to Israeli leaders that some reciprocal gesture on their part was expected. Deputy Premier Yigal Alon said in a speech at Kibbutz Brenner Thursday that there could be no progress by the Jarring mission until the Egyptian missile problem was solved. But he didn't say Israel could not return to the talks and he stressed that Israel had the means to deal with the missile threat. Moshe Kol, Minister of Tourism in the Meir government and chairman of the Independent Liberal Party, led a party meeting Friday that there was an urgent need to return to the Jarring talks. He said that if missile roll-back proved impossible to achieve, a new agreement would have to be negotiated.

Return To Peace Talks Seen As Effort To Keep Extended Cease-Fire In Effect

Some observers here said Israel was preparing to return to the Jarring talks as a means of keeping the extended cease-fire in effect. Government officials are said to concede privately that Egypt, for internal political reasons, would not be able to continue the extended cease-fire beyond its 90-day period if the peace talks continued to be stalled. However, they said, Israel is not likely to return to the peace talks until just before the cease-fire expires, thereby assuring that the guns will remain silent for an additional period. There was no official comment here today on press reports that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan will take a new Israeli peace plan to Washington when he goes to the U.S. next month. General Dayan will be on a speaking tour on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. But according to an article by Seymour M. Hersh in the London Daily Express Friday, he will bring proposals for an Israeli withdrawal from the east bank of the Suez Canal in order to permit the waterway to be re-opened. Mr. Hersh, who is the Express' military and science reporter, said the new plan came to light only days after Gen. Dayan suggested that Israel seek new ways to reactivate the Jarring peace mission. Although the plan would be a far cry from the total withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories that the Arabs have been demanding, it is a "certain Arab leaders, including some Egyptians" who support it "as a starting point for a general settlement," Mr. Hersh wrote.

He said the Egyptians "are fearful of the results of another war and anxious to resettle the million refugees forced out of the Suez towns." According to the writer, the plan would please the Russians because it would open the Suez Canal to their warships and merchantmen plying to and from the Indian Ocean and would offer "a new excuse for keeping their pilots and advisors in Egypt." "Israel seems prepared to make this sacrifice in the interests of peace--provided the Egyptians agree that the Israelis remain in Sharm el-Sheikh which commands the entry to their main Red Sea port at Eilat," Mr. Hersh wrote. (According to reports from Washington today, the U.S. would be likely to have mixed reactions toward the alleged Dayan plan if it is ever proposed. These reports said that the U.S., while anxious for peace in the Arab-Israeli impasse, would like to see the Suez Canal remain closed indefinitely in order to prevent easy Russian access to the Indian Ocean.)

Board Of Deputies Urges Soviet Boss To Help Terminate Persecution Of Jews

LONDON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The Board of Deputies of British Jews urged President Nikolai Podgorny of the Soviet Union today to take steps to terminate the Kremlin's "campaign of persecution against Jews whose only alleged crime is their wish to go to Israel." The Board of Deputies, the central representative body of British Jewry, approved the text of a telegram to President Podgorny expressing its concern over the forthcoming trial of 31 Jews for an alleged attempt to hijack a Russian airliner at Smolny Airport near Leningrad last June 15. The telegram charged that the aim of the trial and of connected searches of Jewish homes, arrests and confiscations, was to intimidate Jews who want to go to Israel and to dissuade them from pressing for their lawful right to emigrate. According to Michael Fidler, chairman of the Board of Deputies, "the position of Soviet Jews is deteriorating rapidly and we are assembled here to protest against the treatment of Soviet Jews and to try to prevent a tragedy." He expressed the hope that the telegram to President Podgorny "may evoke a response."

Lord Barnett Janner, who heads the Board's foreign affairs committee, said that "unless the prosecution of Soviet Jews stops, the Soviet Union will join a group of discredited Jew-hating countries." He said that "Soviet authorities should realize that Jews cannot live as Jews in the Soviet Union and therefore they must be permitted to go." Mr. Fidler, a Conservative MP, said the Board would not hesitate to present its views to the Tory government, "just as we never hesitated to present our views to the Labor government." He referred to recent statements by Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home and other British officials on the Middle East which Israel regarded as pro-Arab. "I need hardly assure you that I, as a Conservative Member of Parliament of the Jewish faith, am continuing and will continue to adopt the same attitude," He added that he had "no reason to believe that the views of the British Foreign Secretary on Israel have undergone a recent change."

Sabbath Auto Race Creates Furor; Orthodox Jews Threaten To Halt Tournament

JERUSALEM, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The Cabinet refused today to discuss an international automobile race which religious elements want banned because it will be held on the Sabbath. The matter was raised at today's Cabinet session by Interior Minister Joseph Burg of the National Religious Party, who wanted his colleagues to forbid the race scheduled to be run at Ashkelon next Saturday. An agenda motion with the same purpose in mind was rejected by the Knesset last week by a 25-13 vote. The motion was introduced by Rabbi Menachem Porush of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel faction. Rabbi Porush subsequently threatened that yeshiva students and rabbis would lie down on the race course to stop the contest. The Cabinet majority took its stand after consulting States Attorney Meir Shamgar for legal advice. Mr. Shamgar held that the government had no right to interfere in the privately sponsored event even if it wanted to. Rabbi Porush approached the West German Ambassador to intervene on grounds that the race was sponsored by a West German auto firm. He reportedly threatened that opposition to the race would be turned into an anti-German campaign.

The West German Embassy told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Ambassador Knocke had met with Rabbi Porush at the latter's request but denied that the Ambassador had promised to try to have the race called off. The sponsoring firm, though an agency for German cars, is registered in Israel and the Ambassador told Rabbi Porush that he had no right to intervene, an Embassy spokesman said. He promised however to convey the rabbi's objections to some of the participants in the race who are West German citizens and said he would include the matter in his regular report to his superiors in Bonn. The Orthodox meanwhile are making a cause celebre of the race. Rabbis inveighed against it from their pulpits yesterday. At the same time, members of the leftist Mapam and Hashomer Hatzair demonstrated in the streets against religious coercion. The race will be the first international event of its kind held in Israel. Its sponsors had no difficulty obtaining permits from the Ashkelon city council to hold it on Saturday.

JDL'er To Be Arraigned On Charges Of Falsifying Passport Information

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The administrative director of the Jewish Defense League, Harry Pearl, is to be arraigned tomorrow following his indictment last Tuesday by a federal grand jury on charges of falsifying affidavits to secure a passport for Nancy Joan Hershkovitz, who is accused along with her husband of attempting to hijack an airliner to Israel. The indictment was handed down by U.S. Attorney Whitney North Seymour, Jr. Mr. Pearl, who lives in Forest Hills, Queens, with his wife and three year old son, is a 24-year-old rabbinical student. He was accused of falsely identifying Mrs. Hershkovitz as Nancy Joan McGovern. Mrs. Hershkovitz, 19, and her 26-year-old husband, Avraham, were arrested Sept. 27 as they attempted to board a plane at Kennedy Airport allegedly armed with hand grenades and guns, reportedly on their way to London to hijack an Arab airplane to Israel. Mrs. Hershkovitz was released on \$25,000 bail Oct. 14. Her husband is still imprisoned in the Federal House of Detention for Men. The couple were indicted on Nov. 2 on charges of planning to wreck an airplane and possession of dangerous weapons. A spokesman for the Jewish Defense League told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that both husband and wife were in good spirits. It was reported, however, that Mr. Hershkovitz had suffered a large weight loss due to the refusal of prison authorities to provide him with kosher food. In order not to violate the principles of kashruth, he is subsisting mainly on yogurt and fruit.

Sadat Warns Resumption Of War Possible When New Cease-Fire Ends

LONDON, Nov. 15 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat of Egypt warned in Cairo Friday that a resumption of warfare in the Suez Canal zone is "very possible" after the extended cease-fire expires next Feb. 5. Mr. Sadat made his remarks in a question-and-answer period during a closed meeting of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party. Speaking of the continuing cease-fire he said, "We are not committed to anything. Nothing restricts our movements after this period. The armed forces have clear cut instructions to stand ready and to remain watchful around the clock." President Sadat's remarks were published yesterday.

Jewish Community Urged To Produce \$5 Million Foundation For Jewish Cultural Projects

KANSAS CITY, Mo. Nov. 15 (JTA)--The president of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture declared here last night that the foundation he heads has a prestigious name but is without the funds it needs to carry out minimal scholarship and fellowship programs. Addressing the 39th General Assembly of the National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver of Cleveland said "a foundation without a corpus is like a penniless deaf-mute trying to woo a lovely maiden." The National Foundation for Jewish Culture was established 10 years ago on the recommendation of the CJFWF to encourage all facets of Jewish cultural activities. During those ten years it has received only \$400,000 for grants, according to Rabbi Silver. An annual subvention of about \$120,000 goes mostly for administrative requirements. Rabbi Silver urged the Jewish communities to create something like the non-sectarian Danforth Foundation to support Jewish cultural projects. "I challenge the Jewish community to produce a \$5 million foundation whose stated purpose would be to provide fellowships and scholarships for graduate study in fields of Jewish concern. I can think of no better insurance for our future," he said.

Rabbi Silver claimed that the National Foundation for Jewish Culture "does not have and never had endowment capital." He said that "scholarship monies and other grants have had to be squeezed out of relatively modest allocations" and as a result, "many students and many cultural agencies have had to be turned down for financing of worthwhile projects." Rabbi Silver addressed the CJFWF after presenting his Foundation's citation and medallion for "outstanding contributions to Jewish scholarship" to Prof. Salo W. Baron. Dr. Baron, a prominent author and Jewish historian, called for a "re-ordering of priorities" by Jewish communities by "documenting their interest in Jewish culture by new and greater contributions to institutions of Jewish culture." Dr. Baron said that "ignorance of Judaism cannot be eliminated over night." He classified himself as an "optimist," stating that "the prophets of doom among Jewry are wrong."

Speaking at an earlier session of the CJFWF, Dr. William Korey, director of the United Nations office of the B'nai B'rith International Council, said that anti-Semitism, the absence of Jewish cultural and communal institutions, an augmented sense of pride and religious motivation have catalyzed the "phoenix of Jewish consciousness risen from the ashes of a decimated culture" in the Soviet Union. Dr. Korey issued a report showing Soviet Jewish protesters have a "relatively high degree of education with considerable skills in the humanistic and science fields." From their widely circulated petitions for emigration aid it can be seen, he said, that "a young, highly educated and intensely motivated group has emerged" that has "little faith" of redress of their complaints from "the Communist hierarchy." Furthermore, Dr. Korey noted, "the militancy of Soviet Jews is not a localized or narrow affair." He cited figures in his report indicating that 34.3 percent of Soviet Jewish petitions have come from Riga, 26.3 percent from Moscow, 7.7 percent from Minsk, 6.4 percent from Tbilisi, 5.7 percent from Vilna, 3.6 percent from Kutaisi and 3.1 percent from Leningrad and Kiev. The B'nai B'rith official suggested that the higher the incidence of petitions the greater the anti-Jewish repression; he noted that in Vilna, where only 5.7 percent of the petitions have emanated, there is a degree of Jewish cultural freedom, while in Riga, which heads the list with 34.3 percent, Jewish culture is "completely lacking."

AJCongress Charges Notorious Anti-Semite Preparing Case Against 31 Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has charged that a "notorious anti-Semite"--S. Ye. Soloviov, chief city prosecutor of Leningrad--was preparing the case against 31 Jews arrested in four Soviet cities for a show trial to begin later this month. In a new message over its "hot line" for Soviet Jewry--a telephone recording device installed earlier this month--the Congress said the 31 Jewish "political prisoners" were being held on "trumped-up charges of planning to hijack a Russian airplane." They are residents of Riga, Leningrad, Tbilisi and Kishinev. Mr. Soloviov, the message asserted, served as a judge in Leningrad's criminal court in 1961 and presided over two trials involving Jews. In one, he sentenced a group to death for alleged economic crimes; in the other, synagogue leaders--including an 84-year-old man--were sentenced to long prison terms "because they sought to establish contact with Jewish leaders in other Soviet cities," the Congress declared. The "hot line" message was recorded by Phil Baum, assistant executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

In a fact sheet offered to "hot line" callers, the Congress charged that a "high-level policy decision was made last spring to undertake a nationally-coordinated, concerted KGB action to crack down on the many Jews who persist in an overt struggle to leave the USSR for Israel in order to maintain their Jewish identity." The document charged that entrapment and forced confessions were used in the detention of 12 Riga Jews arrested at the Smolny airport on charges of attempted hijacking. It attributed the information to relatives and friends of the Soviet Jews "living abroad but in the closest feasible contact at home." The people believe, the fact sheet asserted, "that the Riga Jews were entrapped by someone planted in their midst. Privy to their passionate desire to emigrate to Israel and their repeated frustrated applications for exit permits, he gained their confidence by posing as a pilot and offering to fly them out of the country in the airplane he claimed he was normally scheduled to pilot on a routine domestic flight." It is now feared that these circumstances will be distorted in forced confessions extracted from the prisoners, the fact sheet declared.

JDC Distributed 4 Million Pounds Of Food For Peace During Six Month Period

NEW YORK, Nov. 15 (JTA)--Samuel L. Haber, executive vice chairman of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, said yesterday that the JDC had distributed 4 million pounds of Food for Peace supplies in the first half of this year. Some 2.6 million pounds went to supplement diets in Israeli hospitals, child-care homes and other institutions. The remainder went to Iran, Morocco and Tunisia. Mr. Haber said 38,000 needy persons a month--21,500 of them in Israel--benefited. The supplies, paid for by funds from the United Jewish Appeal, were valued at \$262,000, he said.