

JTA daily news bulletin

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1000 Soviet Jews Defy Secret Police To Hold Memorial Observance For Nazi Victims

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The American Conference on Soviet Jewry related today that 1000 Soviet Jews recently defied Soviet police to conduct a memorial observance at the mass grave of 30,000 Jews slaughtered by the Nazis in Rumbuli Forest on the outskirts of Riga, Latvia. According to the report, this latest demonstration of the heroic determination of Soviet Jews to assert their Jewishness despite official harassment was given by mourners gathered Nov. 29, on the 28th anniversary of the deaths of the holocaust victims. A plainclothesman of the feared KGB, the Soviet secret police, attempted to silence a speaker at the gathering. The plainclothesman withdrew when the crowd protested. Uniformed police then moved through the throng, taking photographs. Evidence of participation in demonstrations disapproved by the authorities has often been used as a basis for dismissal of individuals from jobs or other punishment in the USSR. But the mourners refused to be intimidated and none left. The incident was related here by the AJCSJ on the eve of a Community Leadership Alert rally scheduled for tomorrow at Hunter College to protest the Soviet harassment of Jews and demand freedom for the Jews being held for trial.

Dayan On Way To U.S.; Says Talks Will Deal With Israel's Security Problems

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan departed from Lydda Airport for the United States today under a tight blanket of security. He told newsmen before his departure that his high level political talks in Washington would deal with Israel's security problems, the main question of which is the cease-fire. Gen. Dayan warned "the Arabs" that if they attempted to cross the Suez Canal and attack our forces, they will be severely beaten and will leave physical evidence of their defeat." Gen. Dayan is scheduled to meet with top administration figures in Washington Friday and Saturday. Although no official announcement has been made here or in the U.S. as yet, it is considered virtually certain that he will meet with President Nixon. The official purpose of his American visit is on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. He will meet privately with UJA leaders and will address a UJA dinner in New York Saturday night.

Reporters asked Gen. Dayan if he intended to bring up in Washington his plan for a re-negotiated cease-fire agreement with Egypt based on a mutual reduction of forces on both sides of the Suez Canal. The Defense Minister replied that "if the subject is raised, I shall bring up my personal opinion." He added that, "in any case I will deal with security problems, the main subject of which is the cease-fire question." He denied that he had a "shopping list" of Israel's military needs to present to the U.S. "These things are done through regular channels," he said. Questioned about economic problems and Israel's ability to pay for her new American armaments, Gen. Dayan replied, "For me the cashier is (Finance Minister) Pinhas Sapir. He seems satisfied these days. I assume he can control payments." Gen. Dayan was accompanied to the airport by Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev, other senior Army officers and senior members of the Defense Ministry.

Draft Resolution in General Assembly Recommends Measures To Combat Nazism

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 9 (JTA)--The General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) opened discussion yesterday afternoon on a draft resolution condemning and recommending measures against Nazism, racism, apartheid and other forms of discrimination. The draft, sponsored by Iraq, Poland and the Ukraine, calls on the Assembly to "resolutely condemn" such bigotry; take appropriate action to eradicate it; ask the Secretary General to publish a brochure on the issue; recommend that all states act on the problem next year, the International Year for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; instruct the Secretary General to consider holding an international symposium on racial intolerance in 1972, and decide to consider the problem a priority. In 1967 and 1968, the Assembly condemned "racism, Nazism, apartheid and all similar ideologies and practices which are based on racial intolerance and terror." Mrs. Lidya K. Kudryavtseva of Byelorussia complained that "not everything" had been done since the end of World War II to eliminate Nazism forever. "We should not forget with what speed Nazism developed in Germany," she declared, adding that one of today's manifestations of Hitlerism was "the bestiality of Israel" in the occupied Arab territories. She urged the United Nations to use the mass media to emphasize the dangers of Nazism.

Gyula Budai of Hungary said neo-Nazism in West Germany imperiled the peace of Europe. He scored West Germany's "mockery and insult" in advising the Secretary General that it would treat neo-Nazis and Communists alike. Mr. Budai called that a "slap in the face" of today's German. He also charged some unidentified Western governments with failing to inform the Secretary General of their actions against Nazism. Edward Sabik of Poland voiced alarm at what he called the penetration of Nazi ideology into many right-wing groups around the world, adding that the existence of neo-Nazism was evidenced by the upsurge in militarism. N.I. Evdokimov of the Soviet Union accused Israel of using Nazi tactics against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Ludek Handl of Czechoslovakia joined the previous speakers in endorsing the three-power draft, as did Fernando Alvarez Tello of Cuba, a country that has not experienced Nazism. The Third Committee is also considering a message from Otto Winzer, East German Foreign Minister, in which he charges that West Germany "grossly defames German anti-Fascist resistance fighters" in its statement in the Secretary General's report on anti-Nazi action. Mr. Winzer's charge was circulated at the request of Bulgaria; East Germany is not a member of the UN.

Eban Calls Arrest Of Soviet Jews One Of Most Shocking Episodes In Generation

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban accused the Soviet Union today of "suppressing and violating the most elementary human rights" in its treatment of Jewish prisoners in Leningrad. He called their arrest "one of the most shocking episodes in our generation." Mr. Eban spoke during a question-and-answer period in the Knesset. He referred to nine Jews facing imminent trial in Leningrad for allegedly plotting to hijack a Soviet airliner last spring. Altogether, more than 30 Russian Jews have been imprisoned on this and other charges. Mr. Eban said that several prominent jurists in the United States and Europe have offered to defend the accused or to assist in their defense by Soviet lawyers. He said the Soviet authorities have been notified of these offers but so far have ignored them. Mr. Eban disclosed that the Soviet Union had "warned" Israel several times by means of declarations against carrying out its alleged intention to strike at Egypt's Assuan High Dam. Israel has never directly threatened the dam which was financed by Russia and built under the supervision of Soviet engineers. But Israeli air raids on targets deep inside Egypt a year ago demonstrated the dam's vulnerability.

Socialists Say Situation Of Soviet Jews Comparable To Situation Under Fascism

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Soviet anti-Semitism was likened to that which prevailed in the Fascist countries during the 1930s in a report on the situation of Soviet Jews published here by the Socialist International. The report said there was no basic solution for the problem of Soviet Jews within the Soviet frontiers and appealed to the Soviet authorities to halt their anti-Semitic campaign. According to the document, Soviet anti-Semitism has degenerated to a primitive level in recent years, reminiscent of the Fascist countries of the thirties.

Mrs. Meir Defends Supreme Court Decisions On State And Religion, Extols NRP

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir, a guest at a meeting of the National Religious Party yesterday, staunchly defended Israel's Supreme Court whose verdicts on questions of state and religion have often aroused the ire of the Orthodox religious establishment. Mrs. Meir said she was not always happy with the verdicts "but we shall not tell our judges what to do and what to say. We have nothing to be ashamed of in our courts." Mrs. Meir devoted most of her remarks to extolling the partnership of the NRP and her Labor Party in Israel's coalition governments, past and present. Though a minority party, the NRP holds the balance of power on which the coalition depends. Critics have charged the Labor Party with giving in to NRP demands in disputes involving religious conformity and have accused the NRP of resorting to political blackmail to force its views on the government.

But according to Mrs. Meir, "there is no way but for both Labor and the NRP to go hand-in-hand." She said that future historians would see that "no one has lost anything from this continuing partnership." Mrs. Meir dwelt at some length on the problem of Soviet Jewry and the Jewish struggle on their behalf. She said she welcomed the "alertness" of Israeli youth on the subject but remarked that "it is not only the youth that carries out actions in this respect," adding "much more is done. There are those who cry and those who do." Mrs. Meir repeated her earlier denunciation of the recent bombings of Soviet government offices in New York which has been attributed in some quarters to militant Jewish youths. She said that such acts only play into Soviet hands.

Labor Party Victorious In Nazareth Elections; Communists Retain Strength

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The Labor Party and its allies emerged victorious in the Nazareth City Council elections yesterday but the Communists retained their position as the strongest single party in that Christian Arab town. The Labor alignment won seven seats in the 17-member Council and can count on the support of Mapam and the Arab Religious Party which won three seats between them. The Communists, who polled 40 percent of the vote, hold the remaining seven seats. Despite heavy rains, 85 percent of the 16,000 eligible voters turned up at the polls. A dispute has already arisen among the non-Communist factions. The Religious Party leader is demanding the Mayor's office for himself as the price of supporting the Labor Party. But Labor has its own candidate, Saif Adlin Zouabi, a Labor member of the Knesset.

West German President Expresses Hope For Lasting Mideast Peace

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--President Gustav Heinemann of the West German Federal Republic expressed hopes for a lasting peace in the Middle East in a letter to Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. Dr. Heinemann's letter was in acknowledgment of an olive tree sapling the Jerusalem Mayor sent him last month as a gift. The German leader expressed the hope that after the terrible suffering caused by the ongoing Middle East conflict, solutions would be found that could offer assurances of a just and lasting peace, followed by conciliation between the present enemies. He observed that "the sapling, once it has taken root, will be a token of the progress in the relations between Federal Germany and the State of Israel."

Shazar Says He Cannot Condemn Striking Teachers; Parents, Pupils Protest Walkout

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar said today that he could not condemn Israel's striking high school teachers but maintained that the government's fair offer to meet some of their demands "has taken the wind out of their sails." President Shazar spoke to a joint delegation of parents and pupils who visited his home to protest the month-long walkout which has affected tens of thousands of Israeli teen-agers. Education Minister Yigal Allon who was present at the meeting, accused the teachers of going back on their word. The high school parents demonstrated outside the Knesset building at noon today demanding that the government and the teachers union act quickly to end the strike. A delegation visited the Knesset Speaker. But the strikers and the government remained at an impasse following yesterday's meeting of union leaders with Premier Golda Meir who told them the government could not afford to meet their wage demands.

Israel Under No Obligation To Treat Seriously Resolution On Palestinians

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Israel "has no obligation to treat seriously" a resolution on the Palestinians passed by the United Nations General Assembly last night by a 47-22 vote with 50 nations abstaining. The resolution, previously approved by the Special Political Committee, recognizes that "The people of Palestine" deserve "equal rights and self-determination" and "full respect for (their) inalienable rights" as "an indispensable element" of peace in the Middle East. Somalia, one of the eight nations sponsoring the resolution, requested in advance of the vote that it be declared "unimportant" so as not to require a two-thirds majority for passage. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel could not take seriously a resolution which the General Assembly itself defined as unimportant. He noted that many of the 50 nations which abstained based their abstention on the "unimportance" of the vote. (Israel's Ambassador to the UN, Yosef Tekoa, made a similar observation after the vote last night. He said that while the resolution will be recorded as having been adopted, "its sponsors established that it is not an important question" and "Israel will treat it accordingly as of no import.") The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the only effect of the resolution would be "to bolster illusions in the Arab world."

There was no official comment here on a resolution calling on Israel to repatriate the Arab refugees of the June, 1967 war, which the General Assembly passed by a 99-5 vote with 17 abstentions. The United States, Britain and France joined the majority. It was opposed by Israel and four Central American nations. The U.S. voted with Israel against the resolution on the Palestinians. Ambassador Richard H. Gimner, speaking for the American delegation said that resolution "would distort the Charter principle of self-determination by applying it not to a non-self-governing territory but to one or more sovereign members of this organization." Mr. Gimner warned further that the resolution would "distort" the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967 which is the basis for the Jarring peace talks. The Palestinian resolution was supported by the Arab bloc, the Soviet Union, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania, Hungary, Greece, India, Pakistan and Spain. Italy, the Netherlands and Canada were among the nations casting opposing votes and Britain, France and Japan were among the many abstainers. Jordan's Ambassador, Mohammed H. el-Farwa called the resolution factual and realistic. Israel was the only abstainer on an American-sponsored resolution noting the "critical" financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). It passed by 111-3-1. Israel supported another resolution for continued "humanitarian assistance" to the 1967 refugees which passed by a vote of 114-1-2. The resolution contained a "strong appeal" for more UNRWA funds.

Iraq Seeks Maximum Security For UN Missions; Condemns Terror; Cites JDL as Culprit

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 9 (JTA)—Iraq asked the General Assembly yesterday to beseech the United States to "take all necessary measures in providing maximum protection to Permanent Missions and their diplomatic personnel against increasing abuse and terrorist attacks" that prevent them from operating "properly." The Iraqi representative condemned the "systematic campaign of terror" against the Syrian Mission (on Dec. 3, 1969) and other missions and on the New York offices of the Palestine Liberation Organization. He said the attacks were believed to have been carried out by the Jewish Defense League, which he termed a "Nazi organization" that has been scored by "decent" Jews. In the incident at the Syrian Mission, the Iraqi said, the police of a superpower like the U.S. failed to evict the "hooligans" for four hours. Albert F. Bender Jr. of the U.S. rejected Iraq's "irresponsible charges."

Eban Denies Israel Maintains Military Attaches With Rebel Forces In Southern Sudan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9 (JTA)—Foreign Minister Abba Eban today denied a London Sunday Times report that Israel was maintaining military attaches with African rebel forces in southern Sudan and was assisting the rebels. Replying to questions in the Knesset Mr. Eban said Israel was rendering aid to Kenya, Uganda and Kinshasa Congo within the framework of its technical assistance program. He said the nature of the aid was the training of para-military youth battalions along the lines of Israel's Gadi and "Nahal" soldier-farmers, for those nations.

Latin American Zionist Students Condemn Soviet Policy On Denying Emigration To Jews

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 9 (JTA)—An extraordinary convention of the Federation of Zionist Students of Latin America was held here yesterday that included representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Colombia, Costa Rica and Guatemala. The students stated their support of Israel's efforts for peace in the Middle East and urged the United Nations to intercede on behalf of Soviet Jewry. The convention condemned the Soviet policy of denying Jews the right to emigrate to Israel.

LAKE NEWS BULLETIN

Dayan In N.Y.; Says Israel Appreciates U.S. Aid; Definitely Meeting With Nixon

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)—Defense Minister Moshe Dayan of Israel arrived at Kennedy Airport at 4:45 p.m. today. Wearing a heavy overcoat with collar upturned against a biting wind, Gen. Dayan landed from a regular El Al commercial flight that left Tel Aviv this morning. Security arrangements at the airport were described as "as tight or tighter" than those which surrounded Premier Golda Meir of Israel when she arrived at Kennedy last October. Gen. Dayan was whisked off by car to an undisclosed destination after speaking briefly to newsmen. He said the primary purpose of his visit was to raise funds for the United Jewish Appeal. Gen. Dayan stated he would meet with Nixon administration leaders in Washington on Friday and would address a UJA dinner in New York Saturday night. Asked to comment on American arms shipments to Israel, the Defense Minister said, "We appreciate very much what we are getting from you but people have a very big appetite, including us." (In Washington, a White House spokesman confirmed this afternoon that President Nixon will meet with Gen. Dayan at the White House Friday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. He gave no further details. Gen. Dayan is also scheduled to meet with Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird and other administration officials.)

JDC Adopts Budget Of \$23,112 Million For 1971; Helped 315,000 Persons In 1970

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee adopted a \$23,112,000 budget at its 56th annual meeting here today to help 300,000 needy Jews in 35 countries during 1971. The budget was presented to 200 Jewish community leaders from the United States and Canada by JDC director general Louis D. Horwitz who said the sum was the minimum required to finance the relief agency's broad range of health, welfare and reconstruction programs all over the world. Samuel L. Haber, JDC executive vice chairman, reported that JDC spent \$23,350,000 to aid 315,000 Jews during 1970. He said that since 1945, JDC spent nearly \$800 million in rescue, relief and reconstruction activities. The JDC is a major beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Horwitz termed 1970 "a turning point in the JDC programs, especially in Israel where the JDC had to readjust its machinery to deal with the social problems posed by the aged and handicapped for which the hard pressed State of Israel has few resources of funds and manpower." He said one of the most constructive developments there was the inauguration of modern health and welfare programs for all who need them rather than only for new immigrants whom the JDC has been helping all along. He cited as one example a new community center and home for the aged at Afula, the first of three such facilities which the JDC is helping to establish.

Mr. Haber said JDC activities in 1970 were concentrated in Israel, North Africa, Iran and Eastern and Western Europe. He said Israel absorbed 35 percent of last year's expenditures which aided 95,000 Jews there. North Africa and Iran together accounted for nearly a fifth of the budget which went to aid 47,000 Jews, mostly children and young people. Mr. Haber said the JDC spent a third of its funds aiding 95,000 Jews in Eastern Europe and 65,000 needy Jews in Western Europe. In the latter countries, he said, most of the expenditures were for care and maintenance of transmigrants while they waited for their emigration papers to come through. He said that "at the beginning of the year, the transmigrant caseload was about 2000 persons" but "with the slower exodus from Poland, the caseload shrank to approximately 540 persons." He warned that there was always the possibility of a sudden spurt and the JDC must be ready to receive new waves of refugees. JDC chairman Louis Broide said there was a great deal of voluntary activity in unmet health and welfare needs in Israel. "This is a very welcome development but sometimes a little overwhelming," he said. "When we came to Israel we were beset on all sides by voluntary groups for financial assistance for all kinds of welfare services."

Max A. Braude, director general of ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) reported at the meeting that more than 60,000 students are enrolled in nearly 700 ORT vocational training units in 24 countries. He said that ORT schools are oriented mainly to young people and offer training in 91 vocational fields depending on the manpower needs and opportunities for Jews in different countries. Mr. Braude said that while ORT programs play an important role in North Africa, Iran, India, Latin America, France and other countries, it is in Israel that "ORT is the heart of the country's vocational education and the prime source for the development of manpower resources." He reported that ORT has doubled its youth enrollment in its 72 vocational high schools in Israel during the last four years, and plans to "treble" it in the next few years. Mr. Broide was re-elected JDC chairman for a sixth one-year term. Jack D. Weiler was re-elected chairman of the JDC's national council for a fifth one-year term and was also re-elected vice chairman. Also elected vice-chairmen for the first time were Edward Ginsberg and Irving Kane, of Cleveland and Herbert M. Singer, of New York.

AJ Committee Reaffirms Official Position On Religion and Public Education

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee, at its national executive council meeting in Houston last week, re-affirmed its official position on religion and public education originally adopted in May, 1967. The position stated: "Maintenance and furtherance of religion are responsibilities of the church, the synagogue and the home, not of the public school. The time, facilities, funds and personnel of our public schools must not be used for religious purposes. Public funds may not be used for aid to denominational schools." Bertram H. Gold, executive vice president of the AJ Committee stated that the AJ Committee did not consider backing "public support of at least the non-religious portions of parochial day school education" as previously reported by an AJ Committee spokesman from the convention site in Houston.

Ganel Announces Goal Of 15,000 Youth For Summer Programs In Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 9 (JTA)--A goal of 15,000 young people, college and high school students for the Israel summer programs within the next few years was announced here yesterday by Chaim Ganel, director general of the Youth and Nechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization in Jerusalem. He is visiting the American Zionist Youth Foundation and conferring with Dr. Arnold M. Pine, chairman of the board of trustees of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, and William Levine, the Foundation executive director. Eleven thousand of the 15,000 expected participants will come from the U.S. as compared with 3,000 last year and 4,200 in 1970. Mr. Ganel also announced the doubling of the Sherut Le'am program from the U.S. during the next year from 250 to 500. Sherut Le'am is a one-year work and study program for young Americans ages 18 to 30.

Sir Isaac And Lady Wolfson Honored For Grant To Build Auditorium At Hebrew U.

LONDON, Dec. 9 (JTA)--The many philanthropic endeavors of Sir Isaac and Lady Wolfson were hailed at a dinner given in their honor here to mark a grant from the Wolfson Foundation for the construction of a new auditorium at the Hebrew University's Mt. Scopus campus. The occasion also witnessed the conferment of an honorary doctorate of philosophy on Sir Isaac. The dinner was presided over by Lord Cohen of Walmer. Prof. Albert Neuberger, chairman of the academic committee of the Hebrew University Governors, observed that "Sir Isaac Wolfson has given the Hebrew University sustained help over many years and a recent magnificent grant from the Wolfson Foundation has enabled the University to build the Auditorium Maximum on Mt. Scopus." Sir Isaac said in response: "I had a sense of deep satisfaction as I listened to the speeches but I also had a sense of humility. I felt embarrassed that so much should be said about me."