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Nine On Trial In USSR On Charges Of 'Banditry And Treason'; Seven Reported Jewish

LONDON, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Nine persons, at least seven of them Jews, went on trial in Leningrad today on charges of "banditry and treason" which, under the Soviet criminal code could carry the death penalty if they are convicted. The charges stem from an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner at Smolay Airport near Leningrad last June 15. A total of more than 30 Jews in several Russian cities have been reported arrested since then on related charges or for other alleged offenses. Sources claim that the charges are based on manufactured evidence intended for a series of "show trials" to intimidate Russian Jews demanding the right to emigrate. According to authoritative sources, the Jewish defendants are Anatoly Altman, 34; Mendel Bodnia, 33; Wolf Zalmanson, 31 and Leib Khanokh, 28; the other three whose ages are not known are Boris Pestner, Mark Dymshitz and Edward Kuznetsov. The sources said that Kuznetsov, Khanokh, Zalmanson and Altman are from Riga, Latvia. Dymshitz was alleged by the Soviet authorities to be a pilot. The Leningrad trial was closed to the foreign press. Western newsmen learned from "judicial sources" in Moscow that it opened today but there was no mention of the fact in Soviet newspapers.

Some observers expressed surprise at the absence of news in the Soviet press which might have been expected to arouse public opinion against the defendants in advance of a "show trial." One source here said that trials in the Soviet Union for alleged offenses against the State are often held without publicity and the press is informed only after a verdict has been rendered. The theory that Soviet authorities have a show trial in mind stems from the nature of the charges and the swiftness with which Jews were rounded up in other cities after the alleged hijack attempt. Documents published in the Russian Jewish underground newspaper "Exodus," smuggled out of the USSR recently, claimed that the hijacking charge was never substantiated to the satisfaction of any unbiased observer. They noted that the KGB, the Soviet secret police, arrested Jews all over Russia and searched the homes of many more, ostensibly because they were collaborators of the world-be hijackers. But the arrests and searches were made within an hour after the arrests at Smolay Airport, too short a time to gather evidence or transmit instructions unless the entire operation was planned beforehand.

CCAR, AZF Condemn Trial; Call For UN Debate, Open Doors Of U.S. To Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--The Central Conference of American Rabbis urged the United States and Canada today to open their doors to Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate "as has been done in the past with Hungarians, Cubans and others." The appeal by the Reform rabbinical body was contained in a resolution denouncing the trial of Jews which opened in Leningrad today as an outrage "reminiscent of Stalinist methods." The executive board of the CCAR called on Premier Alexsei Kosygin to "end the terror which these trials signify not only for three million Jews of the USSR but to the civilized world." The rabbinic body urged President Nixon "immediately to convey our own government's shock at these trials and to launch a full debate on the question at the United Nations." The Reform rabbis also pleaded with "people of all persuasions to join in a vocal outcry against these dreaded actions of the Soviet Union." Copies of the resolution were sent to Nixon, Secretary of State Rogers, Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and UN Secretary General U Thant.

The CCAR said, "With these trials, Kremlin authorities have returned to the dreaded techniques used in the early 1940s of the economic trials, the Slansky trial and even parallel the barbaric actions of the Iraqi Government trial." Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, said today that leaders of the American Zionist movement would picket the Soviet UN Mission tonight in protest against the trials. Rabbi Miller charged that while the trial opened today, the defendants have already been condemned. Commenting on the fact that foreign newsmen have been barred from the trial, Rabbi Miller said, "The arrests of those facing trial was public; the search of Jewish homes and the seizure of certain items was made public; the announcement of the trial was made public; and the charges were also made public. Why then is the trial closed to responsible news sources? A secret trial can mean only one thing: those in the dock have already been condemned."

Senate, By Vote Of 60-20, Rejects Restrictions On Military Aid To Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 15 (JTA)--By a vote of 60 to 20, the Senate refused today to add restrictions on military aid to Israel to an amendment providing restrictions on aid to Cambodia. The amendment, submitted by Sen. Mike Gravel, Democrat of Alaska, seeks to delete the Administration's \$385 million supplementary aid request for Cambodia from its over-all \$1,035 billion military aid-request package. That package proposes \$500 million for Israel, \$30 million for Jordan and \$5 million for Lebanon. Final action on it was not expected until tomorrow. Sen. John J. Williams, Republican of Delaware, proposed that the legislation include language barring American soldiers and advisors from Israel as well as from Cambodia. Sen. Williams, who is retiring this year, is known for opposition to aid for Israel.

Sen. John Sherman Cooper, Kentucky Republican, responded that there was "quite a practical difference" between Israel and Cambodia, noting that there was no likelihood of American troops being sent to Israel and that she has not requested them. Sen. Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, advised Sen. Williams that including restrictions on aid to Israel could mean defeat for the entire measure. Sen. Williams was supported today by Sen. J. W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Fulbright, who opposed credits for Israel when the measure was introduced in September, said the Williams position was "consistent with the often-expressed view that the United States should not enlarge its commitments overseas."

Hussein: No Separate Peace Between Israel, Jordan; Israel Must Take Peace Initiative

PARIS, Dec. 15 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan, today ruled out the possibility of a separate peace between Israel and either his country or Egypt but said he favored eventual border adjustments because

the 1967 borders were "cease-fire lines only with all the injustices and lack of logic which this implies." The King spoke during an hour-long television interview broadcast to 19 European and North African countries. He said however that the border adjustments can be effected only after Israel withdraws completely from the territories it occupied during the June, 1967 war. He claimed that any diplomatic initiative for peace must now come from Israel "because we Arabs have done whatever we can by accepting the Security Council resolution and the Rogers plan." As Hussein replied to questions from ten French Middle East experts, Paris police battled about 100 French leftists who were trying to storm the Jordanian Embassy here in protest against alleged Jordanian cruelty to Palestinian guerrillas. Ten policemen were injured and 15 demonstrators were arrested. In the course of his interview, Hussein had some highly complimentary words for Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan but ruled out a meeting with him or any other Israeli leader as being "pointless for the time being." His sharpest words were reserved for advocates of a separate Palestinian state in Jordan.

Hussein called the Palestinians "normal citizens of Jordan with whom a dialogue can and must be found." He said however that only after a final settlement with Israel is reached will the Palestinians be offered the option of remaining citizens of Jordan or "opting for an autonomous Palestinian province within the framework of the Hashemite Kingdom." Hussein said that for the Arabs, a solution of the Mideast conflict was relatively simple. "We either recuperate our lost territories by peaceful means or we shall have to revert to military measures which, unfortunately, could endanger not only the peace of the region but that of the entire world." Hussein rejected as "unacceptable" any plan to internationalize part of Jerusalem. He said, however, that Jordan might agree to the internationalization of the united city, Jewish and Arab alike, which could then become the capital of peace. His references to Dayan were made when he was asked to comment on a recent statement by the Defense Minister that "Hussein is the most honest of all Arab leaders." Hussein said, "It was very kind of him to say this of me and I am deeply touched. I also consider him not only a brave soldier and capable politician but also a great patriot of his country."

Remains Of Three Flyers, Wrecked Plane, Reported Missing 13 Days Ago, Found

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA)—The remains of three flyers and the wreckage of their plane reported missing 13 days ago was found in a deep gorge at the foot of Mt. Peikin in Central Galilee today. The wreckage was sighted by two hunters from Beth Jan who alerted police. Police detachments and an Israel Air Force helicopter reached the scene but efforts to extricate the bodies will not be made until tomorrow. The plane, a light Cessna used for crop spraying and other agricultural purposes, disappeared over northern Israel on Nov. 5, while seeding clouds with chemicals in an effort to stimulate rainfall. Extensive searches by land, sea and air yielded no trace of the aircraft. The site of the crash was a considerable distance away from where the plane was expected to be found. The victims were two pilots and an agricultural expert. Their names were not given.

Bar Lev: Armed Forces Must Be Prepared For Renewed Warfare After Cease-Fire Ends

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev warned today that Israel's armed forces must be prepared for a possible renewal of warfare along the Suez Canal after the cease-fire ends Feb. 5 "or perhaps even earlier." Bar Lev spoke after inspecting troops of the crack Golan Brigade in the Jordan Valley. He said "At present it is quiet along all of our borders except the Lebanese but there is no certainty how long this will continue and should fighting break out anew, the Golan Brigade will face a special set of tasks."

Tekoa's Stopover In Israel Possibly For Briefing On Israel's Return To Talks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 15 (JTA)—Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoa was scheduled to leave New York tonight for London and from there for Israel, where he will consult with his government on recent Middle East developments. Although Tekoa would not specify the content of the consultations, sources here speculated he would probably be briefed on his government's most up-to-date position regarding its return to the Jarring peace talks. Sources here and in Washington feel Israel will soon announce her return to the talks. Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN's special Mideast mediator, is due here shortly to help Secretary General U Thant prepare his Jan. 5 report on the progress of the peace talks. In London tomorrow and Thursday, Tekoa will attend a conference of Israeli envoys to European capitals. Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban will also attend the conference. At the UN today, Israeli sources said their government would launch new diplomatic efforts on an international scale to counteract similar and successful Arab efforts. They said that although there were "positive" aspects to the actions of the 25th General Assembly, which is scheduled to end this week, there were also "negative" aspects that Israel had to struggle to overcome.

The positive points cited were: No Arab-initiated resolution gained a majority vote; none of the resolutions that passed, though "unfriendly to Israel and in fact pro-Arab," actually created "new political facts"; more nations than ever before advised Israel that they did not consider the resolutions important, and Israel succeeded in "preventing results that could have been graver from our point of view." On the negative side, the prevention of support for Arab resolutions became "much more difficult"; there has been a "noticeable deterioration" in support for Israel's policies; Britain's voting has been "most disappointing"; the Assembly "paralyzed" the Jarring mission; the UN has emphasized "slogans" instead of "solutions"; there was undue stress on the "rights of the Palestinians, and United States status has suffered from its 'stronger-than-ever' support for Israel. The Israeli sources attributed the negative trend largely to a "tremendous diplomatic and political campaign" in foreign capitals by the Arabs. They said that "it is quite clear that Israel, if it wants to improve its position, must do much more in the capitals on issues which come up before the UN."

Eban To Meet With Sir Alec, Attend Conference Of Israeli Envoys To Europe

LONDON, Dec. 15 (JTA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban arrived here today under strict security measures, and tonight addressed a large audience at a dinner sponsored by the Joint Palestine Appeal. Tomorrow Eban will speak to Chatham House members, meet with Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home and attend a conference of Israeli ambassadors to European countries. Because of the meeting, Eban has cancelled his appearance at tomorrow night's dinner in New York of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Dr. Goldmann: Survival Of Jewish Communities Threatened By Nature Of Century

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann warned that the survival of Jewish communities throughout the world is imperilled by the "revolutionary character of our century." In his address to 300 persons attending a banquet last weekend held by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations for its national Board of Trustees and the presidents of its constituent Reform Jewish Temples, the president of the World Jewish Congress declared that the threat is not so much one of "classical anti-Semitism" as it is "the weakening of hundreds of millions of people, of classes and countries oppressed in the past." While Jews as individuals may not be in danger, Dr. Goldmann said, Jewish communities are threatened by "the explosive internal situation" in their respective countries. He cited Cuba as an example where, he noted the regime which is "not tainted with any anti-Semitism, saw the ruin of a once-flourishing and prosperous Jewish community because it was tied up with the middle class, which the Castro regime destroyed." Dr. Goldmann cited the current situation facing the three million Jews in the Soviet Union as another example. If the problem of Soviet Jewry were just one "of regular anti-Semitism," he stated, it would be serious, but less complicated than it is. The problem there is that while the Soviet regime recognizes the rights of minority groups that are territorially concentrated and can form their own autonomous regime, the Jews are dispersed throughout the Soviet Union, he observed. "It is thus a problem how to grant them the same rights as are enjoyed by the territorially concentrated other minorities."

Dr. Goldmann said he did not justify the "clear discrimination against the Jews as a religious and national minority, or the enforced assimilation which is the policy of the Soviet regime." A factor of influence in the lives of Jewish people today, Dr. Goldmann observed, is that they "are mostly on the other side of the barricades." This, he said, was in sharp contrast to the role of the Jews from the days of the Prophets to the 19th century when they were "in opposition to the status quo, against the establishment" and in "the forefront of all revolutionary movements." Dr. Goldmann stated that Jews today "are linked to the status quo, therefore, an object of attack and criticism to all the revolutionary forces in the world, of which the New Left, both non-Jewish and Jewish, is only one spectacular illustration." Dr. Goldmann stated that a priority need was to "find new challenges to secure the Jewishness of the new generation and thus the survival of our people." He stressed the emergence of the State of Israel, which "has given a new dimension to Jewish life, but has, on the other hand, created new problems of a unique and complex nature" because Israel, with its own political interests, "creates problems for Jewish communities living in countries whose policies may be hostile or unfriendly to Israel." Dr. Goldmann added, however, that in light of the present "critical situations," it is essential that world Jewry "stand unreservedly with and behind Israel."

School Teachers End Strike; Threatened Airport Workers Strike Grounded

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)--The high school teachers union and the Ministry of Education reached an agreement this morning ending a six week-old teachers strike. Classes will resume tomorrow. The agreement involved the appointment of a committee to study teachers' grievances and a promise not to penalize the teachers for their walkout. But senior students will have to make up the 24 lost days of classes out of their winter holiday time. Students in the lower grades will lose only 12 days of their vacation. A threatened strike of airport administrative workers and flight control officers was called off shortly before it was scheduled to begin at 6 o'clock this morning. But Lydda Airport was deserted. Most flights scheduled for today took off last night to avoid being grounded, among them the flight carrying Foreign Minister Abba Eban to London.

Pincus Says Those Attacking Jewish Values Use Zionism As 'Code Word' For Jew

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, charged yesterday that Zionism was being used as a "code word" for those who wished to attack Jews and Jewish values but did not want to use the word "Jew." Addressing leaders of 25 major Jewish organizations gathered at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel for the opening meeting of the American Zionist Federation's drive for one million members, Pincus said "Zionism is being used as a denigrating term by our enemies -- Arabs, communists and anti-Semites." He warned that Zionism was being used to split "Jew from Jew" and "Jew from Israel." What can American Jews do to counter this attack, Pincus asked. And he answered, "He can stand up and proudly say 'Yes, I am a Zionist.'" He cautioned that the upsurge of Jewish solidarity with Israel that followed the Six-Day War cannot be taken for granted, and added that keeping that feeling of solidarity is a "fight that has to be fought every day over and over again."

Touching on the Middle East, Pincus warned the Rogers plan, which calls for territorial rectifications by Israel, is not dead, but is not acceptable to Israel. He commented that while the interests of Israel and America coincide today, they differed not too long ago and may differ again in the future. Pincus asked the American Jewish community to "reaffirm your Zionism in the 70's as an expression of affirmation with Israel as outlined in the new 'Jerusalem Program.'" Abraham Schenker, head of the Information and Organization Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, told the delegates the World Zionist Federation is conducting membership drives in 38 countries and added that Jews throughout the world are waiting to see if the members of the world's largest Jewish community is willing to "stand up and be counted." Israel's Premier Golda Meir, in a message to the AZF conference, hailed the membership drive and added that "to the extent to which the Zionist movement re-energizes your own community, it will have contributed towards a reawakening and reinvigoration in Israel as well."

Brandt Says He Kneeled Before Warsaw Ghetto Monument To Ask Pardon For Crimes

BONN, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Chancellor Willy Brandt said in a magazine interview published today that when he knelt and laid a wreath on the Warsaw Ghetto memorial monument last week he "wanted to ask for pardon in the name of our people for a million-fold crime which was committed in the missed name of the Germans." Brandt's gesture, which was pictured on television and in the press, has aroused controversy in West Germany, according to the Hamburg weekly, Die Welt, which published the interview. Die Welt also published the results of a public opinion poll that showed Germans to be sharply divided over the appropriateness of the gesture. The poll, conducted by the Allensbach Demoscopic Institute, reported that of the 500 persons who responded, 41 percent approved and 48 percent disapproved.

Rothberg Estimates Israel Bond Proceeds For 1970 Will Exceed \$200 Million

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--The 1970 Israel Bond campaign "is almost definitely assured of winding up with an over-all total in excess of \$200 million," it was predicted last night by Sam Rothberg, national campaign chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, at the Chanukah Festival for Israel in Madison Square Garden. Speaking before a capacity audience of 20,000 supporters of Israel, Rothberg said that, "You can be proud of this fact and you can be proud of the historic achievement of the Israel Bond campaign in the last twenty years, during which we provided \$1.8 billion to build up the economy of Israel." Max Abrams, campaign chairman of the Greater New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds, sponsors of the Chanukah Festival last night, reported that with two weeks still remaining in 1970, Israel Bond sales in New York "have reached the figure of \$48,510,750 since January 1st. This is an increase of approximately 15 percent over the entire year of 1969."

Rothberg stressed to the audience that heard and watched outstanding Israeli and American artists of the entertainment world that "several months ago world Jewish leaders were asked to come to Jerusalem by Prime Minister Golda Meir for an emergency meeting. We were asked to make a promise in Jerusalem. That promise was to accept the responsibility of providing Israel with the sum of \$1 billion in 1971. This means \$400 million from the United Jewish Appeal in the United States; \$300 million from other parts of the world; and \$400 million from the sale of Israel Bonds." In the course of the past two decades, Rothberg said, "Israel has kept every promise it made to the Jewish people. We must keep our promise to keep Israel free so that a real peace can be achieved in the Middle East."

State Department Decision Due Soon On Rigerman Citizenship; Nixon Aware Of Case

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--A State Department decision on Leonid Rigerman's citizenship is due within days, his American legal representative reported today after a meeting with officials yesterday in Washington. "There is a reasonably good chance" that Rigerman, the 30-year-old Russian-born Jew, and Mrs. Esther Rigerman, his 40-year-old Brooklyn-born mother, will be granted United States citizenship, said Daniel Greer, New York's First Deputy Commissioner for Ports and Terminals. He added that he could not see how the State Department could fail to help the "heroic" Rigermans, who have been physically prevented by Soviet authorities from entering the American Embassy in Moscow. President Nixon's fury over the Coast Guard's recent thwarting of an attempted defection by a Lithuanian suggests he is sympathetic to the Rigermans, Greer noted. A White House spokesman met yesterday only that Nixon "is aware" of the case. One of the State Department officials Greer met with yesterday was Martin J. Hillenbrand, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs. It was he who last month advised Seymour Grushard, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, that the State Department feared to raise the Soviet Jewish problem openly with the Kremlin because it would be dismissed as "merely cold-war propaganda" and in fact, be counter-productive.

Black Jews To Emigrate To Israel; Will Undergo Ritual Conversion If Required

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Dec. 15 (JTA)--A black rabbi, who recently visited Israel with several members of his congregation, has announced the intentions of his group to emigrate there in the near future. Rabbi Abel Respes, spiritual leader of Temple Adat Beyt Mosheh, located in Elwood, a small community near here, said that approximately 50 black Jews were planning to make the journey. The decision was prompted by the favorable impressions received by 17 congregants and the Rabbi, who toured the country extensively last month for ten days. According to the Rabbi, some of the racial prejudice which black Jews experience in American life was encountered in Israel. "I wasn't conscious, in Israel, that I was colored," he said. "I felt we were all 'yehudim' -- all Jews -- and there was no distinction in this because of color. In many ways, we greatly resembled the Oriental segment there, who comprise at least one-fourth of the population."

The 50-year-old Rabbi said he has met Jews of his race from Morocco and Yemen who treated him as a "brother." Rabbi Respes told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his congregants were particularly interested that their children grow up as Jews in Israel. He moved his synagogue to this South Jersey town in 1962 from Philadelphia because he feared the children would be assimilated into the Negro community and lose their Jewish identity. Rabbi Respes stated his group is prepared to undergo ritual conversion should the Orthodox authorities in Israel so demand. He noted that the black Jews from Chicago, who recently emigrated to Israel and settled in Dimona, have encountered great hardships because of their refusal to fulfill requirements imposed by Orthodox Judaism. "Although we firmly believe we are true Jews," declared Rabbi Respes, "we will readily consent to undergo ritual conversion, as long as this will guarantee our acceptance into the Jewish community."

Human Rights Commissioner Rejects Charge NBC Unfair By Not Reviewing Jewish Play

NEW YORK, Dec. 15 (JTA)--Mrs. Eleanor Holmes Norton, chairman of the City Commission on Human Rights, has rejected the charge by producer-actor Ben Bonus that NBC News engaged in "unfairness and discrimination" by not reviewing his current Broadway show, "Light, Lovely and Yiddish." In a letter to Mr. Bonus and his press agent, Max Eisen, Mrs. Norton noted that the media have a "special responsibility" to "reflect fairly" the diversity of the city's cultural life, including the "unique inheritance of the Yiddish theater. But she said the media are "clearly protected by the First Amendment guarantee of free speech," and that the Human Rights Commission therefore "cannot properly pursue" the charges against NBC News. Under the law, she wrote, a news medium's decision to cover or not to cover a particular event is "not a discriminatory practice." Mr. Bonus and Mr. Eisen had protested last week that the decision by NBC critic Edwin Newman not to review their show, which is almost all in Yiddish, was "unfair, discriminatory and a disservice to theater-goers and the community." Mr. Newman called the charges "nonsense," explaining that the Yiddish language was beyond his ken and that "There is no service I can perform" for his audience with respect to the Bonus show. A spokesman for Mrs. Norton said the Bonus-Eisen protest to the commission appeared to be unique.

Car Belonging To Arafat Explodes; No Hint Whether Guerrilla Chieftain Killed

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15 (JTA)--The car of El Fatah leader Yasser Arafat exploded and burned in Jordan, according to a Jerusalem radio report today quoting Egypt's Middle East News Agency. The report, attributed to an El Fatah spokesman in Jordan, did not say whether Arafat was injured or whether he was in the car at the time. According to the Mena report, the gasoline tank exploded, setting off hand grenades in the car.