

# JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright. Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVII - Fifty-Third Year

Thursday, December 17, 1970

No. 343

## Knesset Suspends All Business To Discuss Plight Of Soviet Jews And Trial

JERUSALEM, Dec. 16 (JTA)—The Knesset suspended all business today for a special session to discuss the plight of Soviet Jews and the immediate crisis of those who went on trial in Leningrad yesterday. By acclamation, the chamber adopted a resolution urging Soviet authorities to release all of the defendants and to permit Russian Jews who so wish, to emigrate to Israel. The resolution called for the support of free parliamentary bodies all over the world and enlightened public opinion in bringing the trial to an end. The resolution was supported by all factions except the pro-Moscow "Rabkach" Communists. The session, attended by President Zalman Shazar, heard an impassioned plea by Deputy Premier Yigal Allon to the Soviet government to permit Jewish emigration. He said the Soviet Union was obliged to do this under the Human Rights Convention of which it is a signatory. Speaking of the Leningrad trial, Allon said "of the 11 accused, nine names are known and seven of them are undoubtedly Jewish. But even if there is a number of non-Jews among the accused—and our hearts bleed for them as well—nothing can disguise the outspokenly anti-Semitic character of this trial."

According to reliable sources, the Leningrad defendants have been charged with "banditry and treason" arising from their alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner at Smolny Airport near Leningrad last June. Under the Soviet criminal code, they could face the death penalty if convicted. Jewish sources have claimed that the evidence was manufactured by the Soviet secret police and that the trial is intended to intimidate other Jews seeking to leave Russia. Allon said, "This is not the first time in our history that we have to serve as whipping boys for foreign regimes. This is nothing new. Anti-Semitism has always been a weapon of despotic systems. It may well be that in the course of the trial we shall hear some 'confessions' as we had been used to hearing during the Stalin era which we thought was over." Allon claimed that the Soviet regime was resorting to repression and intimidation because it failed in other methods to force Jews to assimilate. He said the Soviet government claimed that only a small fraction of Russian Jews wanted to go to Israel. "If that is so, why then is this small fraction denied permission to emigrate? Why does (Soviet Premier Alexsei N.) Kosygin not keep his promise?" he asked.

"In the name of the Israeli government," Allon declared, "I call on the Soviet Union to end its policy of anti-Jewish discrimination and to permit all those of its Jewish citizens who so desire to reunite with their brethren in Israel...We all speak with one voice in defending the Jews of the Soviet Union." Allon's address was followed by statements by representatives of the various factions in the Knesset. Haim Landau, of Herut, suggested that all Soviet Jews be declared citizens of Israel. Moshe Barak of the Labor Party, stressed that the Knesset's action today should not be misconstrued as interference in Soviet internal affairs. Zevelun Hammer, of the National Religious Party wanted some action taken to have the Leningrad trial opened to the public. In related developments today, the Israel Students Association, called Pope Paul and leaders of the Western powers to protest against the Leningrad trial and intervene with Soviet authorities. Classes at the Hebrew University were suspended for two hours for a demonstration of solidarity with the accused in Leningrad. The Association of Zionist Prisoners from the Soviet Union held a fast and prayer service at the Walling Wall. Housing Minister Ze'ev Shuref said in an address today that "It is the duty of the Israeli government and world Jewry to defend these Jews...We have a great responsibility toward them, facing as they do, a brutal regime."

## News Blackout On Trial; Hundreds Of Youth Protest; Jewish Leaders Condemn Trial

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)—A Soviet news blackout appeared to have descended today on the trial that opened in Leningrad yesterday of nine persons, at least seven of them Jews, charged with "banditry and treason," offenses for which the Soviet criminal code provides the death penalty. The trial is closed to foreign newsmen. But the blackout seems to extend to the Russian press. Tass, the official Soviet news agency, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this afternoon that they haven't received "a single line" on the trial. Western news agencies queried said they have had no further information since learning from "judicial sources" in Moscow yesterday that the trial has begun. Some sources said yesterday that 11 have gone on trial and that one of those arrested was in the military service and would be tried by court martial. Two of the defendants were reportedly charged with anti-Soviet activity in addition to the alleged hijacking attempt. It is punishable by a maximum of seven years' imprisonment.

The JTA published the names yesterday of seven of the defendants identifiable as Jews. The names of the others suggest that they are not Jewish. But Jewish leaders here consider the trial another manifestation of official Soviet anti-Semitism. Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said in a joint statement released today that the trial was "a travesty of justice." They urged "the civilized world" not to remain silent while "these victims, now marked for purging in Leningrad, are made martyrs for their zeal for freedom." Hundreds of Jewish youths from New York area colleges and highschools, demonstrated in front of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations for 90 minutes yesterday demanding an end to the trial and release of the prisoners. They carried a photograph of one of the defendants, Leib Khanokh and shouted "stop the show trial!" but no incidents were reported. The demonstration was organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

According to the group's coordinator, Glen Richter, it brought out students from Yeshiva University, Stern College for Women, Brooklyn College, Hunter College, City College, Queens College, Long Island University and Yeshiva Highschools in Manhattan and Brooklyn. According to Richter, who claimed a

turn-out of 700, about 60 of the Brooklyn highschool students left their classes in defiance of orders from their teachers to stay. Police estimated the crowd at 400. Meanwhile, the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry sought a police permit for a mile-long demonstration march up Fifth Avenue to the Soviet Mission on Sunday. Schacter and Wexler called for an "outpouring of condemnation of such atrocities in the name of justice" of such magnitude "that the rulers of the Soviet Union will not be able to disregard it." They claimed that "not only the lives of the innocent scapegoats, but the fate of all Soviet Jewry may well be at stake." The Jewish Labor Committee "appealed to men of good will everywhere, to the United Nations and to the American government to speak out" against the trial. Charles S. Zimmerman, president of the JLC stated that "the 'show trial' may result in an even greater anti-Semitic drive against Soviet Jewry."

### Dr. Goldmann Charges Trial Is Intimidation Of Jews Wishing To Emigrate To Israel

LONDON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Dr. Nahum Goldmann said here today that the trial of Jews which opened in Leningrad yesterday "must be regarded as the most disturbing development in the difficult situation of Jews in the USSR," Dr. Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, said that "available information indicates that this trial is primarily aimed at intimidating Soviet Jewry and silencing their even more openly expressed affirmation of their Jewish identity and desire to emigrate to Israel." He said it was "a matter of deep concern that the Soviet authorities are reacting with punitive measures to this remarkable national renaissance among Soviet Jews which is in no way an expression of hostility to the Soviet State."

### Silent Vigil, Prayer, Picketing Conducted Outside Soviet Embassy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--A group of about 30 Jews prayed and maintained a silent vigil outside of the Soviet Embassy here today as they have for the past seven days, since the trial of Jews in Leningrad became imminent. According to Ernest Shalowitz, president of the Brandeis District of the Zionist Organization of America, the participants are prepared to conduct the daily vigil until the Leningrad trial is concluded. "About 50 Jews picketed the Embassy area today but were prevented from coming close to the building by a District of Columbia ordinance that forbids picketing within 500 feet of a foreign legation."

### Political Parties, Unions, Associations Urged To Intervene On Behalf Of Defendants

PARIS, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The president of the Association of Jews From Eastern Europe has launched an appeal to all French political parties, trade unions and democratic associations to intervene on behalf of the Jewish defendants facing death in a Leningrad court. Solomon Friedrich has contacted a number of top French political leaders and asked them to intervene on behalf of the defendants. Many of them, including some members of the present Cabinet, have promised their support. Some among them, it is understood, have reportedly already written to the Kremlin to inform the Soviet leaders of the shock felt in the West over the trial. Meanwhile, however, the French press has barely taken notice of the case, with few reports on it and practically no comment.

### Eban Confers With Sir Alec; Seen As 'Useful Link' In Continuing Dialogue

LONDON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban met for 45 minutes with Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home at the latter's chambers in Parliament today. Sources close to the Israeli Embassy here said Eban gave "frank expression" to the concern felt in Israel over Sir Alec's remarks at a Conservative Party meeting last month in which he said that Israel must return to its pre-June, 1967 frontiers. The source said the Foreign Minister indicated that the speech, and Britain's vote on a pro-Arab resolution in the United Nations General Assembly, was interpreted by his government as estrangement from Israel and a lack of consideration by Britain for Israel's vital interests. According to other sources here, Sir Alec made it clear that Britain continues to base its Middle East position on the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1947, with special emphasis on resumption of the Jarring talks. The Israeli Embassy source said Eban made the point that a balance of power is necessary for fruitful Arab-Israeli negotiations, that the United States considered this sound doctrine, and that the U.S. should have the open support of other Western governments. Diplomatic sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the Eban-Home talk was a "useful link" in the continuing dialogue between the two governments, one that is "obviously not yet finalized."

### Civilian Truck Driver Killed In Terrorist Ambush; Patrol Kills Terrorist

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--An Israeli civilian truck driver, Haim Shikli, 23, of Ashkelon was killed last night in the outskirts of Gaza when his truck was ambushed by Arab terrorists. The terrorists opened fire at the entrance to Gaza. Security services are investigating the incident. An Arab terrorist was killed this morning in an encounter between an Israeli patrol and guerrillas in the Upper Galilee near the Lebanese border. The terrorists attacked the patrol, which opened fire. The surviving Arabs escaped across the Lebanese border. There were no Israeli casualties. Two Gaza residents were shot and wounded yesterday by an Israeli Army patrol following an explosion in the Labor Exchange building in Gaza. The pair was spotted fleeing from the scene of the explosion. They were fired on when they ignored orders to halt. A hand grenade thrown at an Israeli Army patrol car yesterday in Rafiah in the Gaza Strip injured four local residents. None of the soldiers was hurt. A grenade was thrown at an Israeli civilian car in Gaza but caused no casualties or damage. A military tribunal in Gaza sentenced seven terrorists to life imprisonment, five of them at hard labor, for murdering three Israeli soldiers and committing various acts of sabotage.

### Senate Vote Clears Way For Appropriation Of \$500 Million Aid For Israel

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--The Senate voted 73-23 today to pass President Nixon's \$1.035 billion supplementary foreign military aid bill, clearing the way for an appropriation measure for the \$500 million in military aid to Israel authorized earlier. The measure now goes to a Senate-House Conference committee which is expected to act favorably and speedy passage by both houses seems assured.

## Eban: Israel To Return To Jarring Talks; 1971 May Be Year Of Dialogue

LONDON, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban said last night that Israel will return to the Jarring talks. "We expect a renewal of the Jarring negotiations," he told an audience at a Joint Palestine Appeal dinner. "We have no assurance of agreement, but their failure would obviously make the situation worse than it had been before Aug., 1970," the date of the cease-fire, Eban said. He did not specify when Israel would return to the talks. (Western sources at the United Nations indicated today that they expect the Jarring talks to be resumed by Jan. 5, the date when Secretary General U Thant reports to the Security Council on the progress of Jarring's peace mission. Jarring will return to New York to help Thant prepare the report, according to a UN announcement. It is not certain however when he will arrive. A British diplomat said he expected the peace talks to resume "around the first of the year" which could be any time between the last week of 1970 and Jan. 5.) Eban hinted that assurances from the United States were instrumental in getting Israel back to the stalled negotiations. "The United States has agreed with us that we should not withdraw from anywhere unless it is to secure frontiers, and that we should not agree to anything that would change in any way the character of Israel," Eban said, adding, "This may reopen the way to negotiations once more. 1971 may turn out to be a year of dialogue."

Eban also addressed the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House where he told an overflow audience that the June, 1967 war was "still the point of reference for Israel's foreign policy, but it is the memory of mortal danger and complete isolation which must be considered. It is stronger than the memory of the tremendous victory," he said. Eban noted that Israel has modified its position in the interests of peace. "Israel moved her position from direct negotiations to indirect ones. She accepted a limited cease-fire and in doing so lost a measure of national unity, but the result was more clarity in the situation," he said. Eban stressed that the present cease-fire lines are not final borders. "For the future, we think in terms of open borders, of a level of patriotism--to the nation and to the region--as exists in Scandinavia and within the European Economic Community," he said. The Israeli diplomat said with regard to Jerusalem's future that "her unity must be taken for granted, but we have made proposals for the holy places and in them was inherent a solution which takes account of the interests of all concerned."

## Beigin Says There Is 'Deep Friendship' Between U.S., Israel; Hopes It Will Last

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Israel's opposition leader, Menachem Beigin, said last night that there was "deep friendship" between his country and the United States and that he hoped it would be "a lasting one." But he declined to comment on the policies of the Meir and Nixon administrations "while I am a guest in your country." At no time during the 55-minute interview on WMCA Radio did the host, Barry Gray, pursue the reasons for Beigin's departure from the Cabinet in July--the opposition of his Gahal Party to the government's acceptance of the U.S. peace initiative. There was no mention on the program of the words "Gahal" and "withdrawal," although Israeli retention of the captured territories, at least until there is a peace settlement, is Beigin's major policy plank. The 57-year-old Gahal chairman, who is in this country speaking to Zionist Organization of America groups, scored charges of Israeli aggression in June, 1967, as "hostile propaganda" and "a complete, utter, unheard-of distortion of facts." On the contrary, he said, Israel had faced "a threat of annihilation, of complete, utter destruction, so we defended ourselves."

Right now, Beigin added, the Soviet Union has a "terrific fleet" seeking passage through the Suez Canal to the Indian Ocean. He called on the Arab governments to solve the refugee problem "constructively, humanely," and explained that Israel does not draft Israeli Arabs into the Army because "from time to time there are hostilities between Israel and the Arab, and we don't like to see Arab fighting against Arab." Beigin said he thought Premier Golda Meir was a "very strong" head of state who provides "very effective leadership," and that "I respect her very highly indeed" despite "differences of opinion." He added that "I suppose she's a very wise woman," and predicted that she would survive any vote of confidence. He said the relationship between the Labor Alignment and Gahal has remained "friendly." On financial matters, Beigin noted that "We are the highest-taxed people on earth, and we accept it." He said he expected Americans would react with "astonishment" to the fact that he and his wife subsist on his Knesset salary of \$250 a month. "Somehow my wife makes both ends meet--with difficulty," he said, adding, "We pay smaller rent because it is an old house." On labor matters, Beigin observed that "We have our portion of strikes.... but somehow we manage."

## Chanuka Torch Will Be Brought To New York And Taken To Los Angeles

TEL AVIV, Dec. 16 (JTA)--A Chanuka torch kindled at the gravesite of the Maccabees at Migdim, will be carried tomorrow to New York by air where it will be picked up by local Maccabean and other groups for celebrations beginning next week. It was announced, Shlomo Vidler, an El Al pursuer who belongs to the Maccabee Sports Club, will carry the torch from Lydda to Kennedy Airport. Vidler was wounded last Sept. 6 in a gun-battle with two Arab hijackers aboard an El Al plane over Britain. A flame from Vidler's torch will be picked up at Kennedy Airport by youths from Los Angeles. They plan to bring it to their city for a "candle-light walk on behalf of Soviet Jewry to take place Dec. 22, the first night of Chanuka. It will be carried by relays of runners and by plane and automobile provided by Masada, the youth group of the Zionist Organization of America. In Los Angeles, participants in the candlelight walk will bring the flame to the steps of City Hall for a brief ceremony involving the lighting of a "Menorah of Freedom."

## Stangl Claims He 'Never Laid Hand On A Jew'; Verdict Due This Week

DUSSELDORF, Dec. 16 (JTA)--Franz Stangl, the former commandant of the Treblinka death camp, claimed in court today that he "never laid a hand on a Jew" and only "did my duty in accordance with laws." Stangl, charged with responsibility for the murder of a half million Jews, made his statement in an appeal to the court "not for mercy but for understanding." A verdict is expected Friday. Stangl said "It is true that terrible things happened at Treblinka but I was sent to this evil place under a pretext and I could not get away."

## Emigration Petition By 38 Riga Jewish Mothers Given To UN Human Rights Commission

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (JTA)—An emigration petition prepared in September by 38 Jewish mothers of Riga, Soviet Latvia, has reached Radaasah here and been forwarded to the Committee on the Status of Women of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The mothers, who signed their names and gave their addresses, charged that "Those whose parents are trying to get permission to go to Israel have been expelled from universities." Thus, they continued, "All the roads have been cut off, and the road to our Homeland is closed. What then is the way out?" The women pleaded for help to "break the sinister silence, explain to people the terrible injustice committed against us." A spokesman for the Committee on the Status of Women said that if the matter were deemed a general human-rights question, it would be considered by the Human Rights Commission next spring, but that if it were ruled a women's matter the committee would not get to it until its next conference in 1972.

## First Metropolitan Student Conference On Judaic Studies Scheduled

BROOKLYN, N.Y., Dec. 16 (JTA)—The first inter-college student conference on Judaic studies is being called jointly by the Department of Judaic Studies and the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Brooklyn College. Student leaders from all the campuses in the metropolitan area have been invited by Murray Weider, Hillel Foundation alumnus, and Ely Braun, assistant to the faculty co-ordinator to meet on Dec. 24 to lay plans for a more intensive promotion and cultivation of Judaic Studies at the various institutions of higher education in the New York area. "The growth of Judaic Studies," stated Weider and Braun, "have been among the most exciting innovations on the educational horizon. Unfortunately, however, there has been little exchange to date between the students so that they might learn from each others mistakes as well as achievements." Three goals have therefore been set for the conference: To share a factual information with each other; to exchange experiences in the area of structure, curriculum, administrative channels and strategy; and to lay plans for the formation of a Standing Committee on Judaic Studies in the metropolitan area.

## \$1 Million To Be Split Between Israel Histadrut And American Histadrut

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 16 (JTA)—The West Coast Golden Jubilee Conference of the Israel Histadrut Campaign has voted \$1 million to be split evenly between the regular campaign and the American Histadrut Development Foundation, it was announced here today by John I. Marder, chairman and Jack Kahan, board chairman. The allocation was made at a banquet attended by 2000 guests. Ambassador Moshe Lehen of Israel's United Nations Mission was guest speaker.

## Yiddish Actor, Yiddish Poet Share \$1000 Prize; Two Israelis Also Prize Winners

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 16 (JTA)—Hermann Yablokoff, a veteran Yiddish actor of the days when New York's Second Avenue was as bright as Broadway, is one of the recipients of the annual Tevye Kessel Literary Awards, it was announced here today by a spokesman for the Culture Committee of the Jewish Central Committee. Yablokoff shares the first prize of \$1,000 with poet Joseph Rubinstein. Two Israeli writers, poet Abraham Brodies and Chela Shimon, were named second-prize winners, each awarded \$250. Yablokoff was cited for his 1500-page two-volume literary work "Around the World With Yiddish Theatre" published 1949 in New York by Yiddish Theatrical Productions, Inc. The Yiddish stage star, now president of the Hebrew Actors Union in New York City, is remembered affectionately by Jewish audiences for the roles he created in such Yiddish productions as "Sammele's Bar Mitzvah", "My Son and I," and the world-famous "Papirossen." In 1946, under the auspices of the Joint Distribution Committee and the U.S. Army, he travelled to Europe where he staged a one-man show to 250,000 refugees in DP Camps in Austria, Germany and Italy. He was awarded a gold medal by the JDC and U.S. Army for his exceptional work. The Tevye Kessel Literary Awards, established 24 years ago by a prominent Mexican Jew, is under the auspices of the Culture Committee of the Mexican Jewish Central Committee.

## Washington Synagogue 'Adopts' Leningrad Synagogue; Symbolic Act Of Identification

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)—The B'nai Israel Synagogue here has "adopted" the Leningrad Synagogue and has sent it a large brass Chanuka Menorah as a symbol of identification with that Russian congregation. Letters in the Russian and Yiddish languages also have been sent to the Leningrad synagogue for delivery prior to the "Feast of Lights" which begins on December 23. The letters are signed by William Mazie, president of the Conservative congregation and Rabbi Henry Segal and Melvin Libman, spiritual leaders of the synagogue. Bert Silver, chairman of the congregations' social action committee, said that he sent the two letters by registered U.S. Air Mail yesterday and that he airmailed the Menorah by U.S. Parcel Post today. They were all addressed, he said, to "Rabbi Lubanov, Jewish Synagogue, No. W Lermantovsky Prospect, Leningrad, USSR." Rabbi Segal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "By this means, the congregation wishes to symbolize its identification with the life of our brothers in Leningrad and the Soviet Union and to express its hopes and prayers that our Jewish brethren will enjoy religious and cultural freedom."

## Agudath Israel Leader Charges Public Schools 'Teach New Religion'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (JTA)—A charge that "the restlessness of America's youth" can be traced to the fact that the nation's public schools "are not religiously neutral but teach a new religion of secular humanism," was leveled at the White House Conference on Children by Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel of America. The Orthodox leader, who is a delegate to the party, urged the conference to "pin the guilt where it belongs: on the modern educators who consider it a sign of their modernity to demonstrate to their pupils that they have broken all links with eternity." The conference began Sunday and ends tomorrow. Expounding on his thesis that the public schools are "actively contaminating children's life-values with cynical concepts and the tragic results can no longer be swept under the rug," Rabbi Sherer called upon all Americans to "appreciate the necessity of keeping alive religiously-oriented schools which prepare their students to cope with a jungle society." He urged the conference to support efforts of non-public schools for increased governmental aid.