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Report Three More Trials Scheduled Soon In Leningrad, Kishinev, Riga

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Three more trials involving Russian Jews charged with a variety of offenses will open in several Soviet cities shortly, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from reliable sources. A new trial is expected to begin at the end of this month or early January in Leningrad where 11 persons, at least seven of them Jews, are now on trial. A third trial will open in Kishinev in the Ukraine and a fourth in Riga, Latvia, the sources said. The defendants currently on trial in Leningrad are charged with "banditry and treason" in an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner last June 15. If convicted they face a possible death penalty.

Tass Gives Israel Radio False Information On Trial In Move To Stem Mounting Wrath

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Israel Radio accused today the official Soviet news agency Tass of deliberately feeding it false information on the trial in Leningrad. According to a spokesman for the government owned station, a phone call was put through to Tass in Moscow at noon today to try to elicit fresh information on the trial which is being conducted in secret. A Tass editor allegedly told the Israeli news editor, "The trial is over. We have published this through all our channels. But we do not yet know what the verdicts and sentences are." This report was broadcast by Israel Radio. When no confirmation appeared from other sources, the radio staff checked with Western news agencies and discovered that the Tass information was false. Western correspondents in Russia reported that they have been unable to telephone Leningrad and have been barred from the court. Israelis believe Tass gave the Israeli radio false information in order to calm "the rising tide of public wrath and indignation" against the trial.

Anger, Anxiety Increases Over Fate Of Defendants And Jews In Soviet Union

TEL AVIV, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Anger boiled over in Israel today over the Leningrad trial, coupled with anxiety for the fate of the Jewish defendants. Petitions demanding an end to the trial and release of the prisoners poured into the Finnish Embassy here. Finland has handled Soviet affairs in Israel since Moscow severed diplomatic relations during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. One of the petitions was signed by 12,000 persons in Haifa. Copies were sent to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Another petition was delivered by the Bessar youth movement which demonstrated in front of the Embassy today. Yechiam Meshel, acting secretary general of Histadrut, cabled the International Federation of Free-Trade Unions a request to intercede with Soviet authorities on behalf of the Leningrad defendants. A similar appeal was sent by the Israeli Editors Association to the World Federation of Periodical Editors.

A huge student rally was held on the Tel Aviv University campus, addressed by students, faculty members and a Jew from Russia. Knesset member Tsvi Zimmerman addressed students on the plight of Soviet Jews at a Haifa University campus rally last night. Housing Minister Ze'ev Sharef, speaking at Merom Hagalil settlement likened Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev and his colleagues to the arch-pegionist of the 17th century Bogdan Chmielnicki who butchered an estimated 300,000 Jews in the Ukraine. Sharef said the Israel government and people are behind the Jews in the Leningrad dock. Bar-Ilan University announced that it will change its name for one day tomorrow to "The Silent Jews University" in a gesture of solidarity with Soviet Jewry.

1000 Persons Express Solidarity With Soviet Jews, Protest Trial, Pledge Aid

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 17 (JTA)--One thousand people attended a mass meeting at the Jewish Community Center here today to express solidarity with Russian Jews and to protest the trial. A resolution was adopted at the rally pledging Danish Jewry to do whatever it can to alleviate the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union. Speakers at the meeting included Aksel Larsen, leader of the Socialist Peoples Party; former Foreign Minister Per Heckerup; a leader of the Social Democrats, and Denmark's Chief Rabbi Bent Melchior. Rabbi Melchior displayed a petition he said he received from ten Jews in Vilna who complained of repeated and unjustified refusal by Soviet authorities to permit them to emigrate to Israel. The petitioners, who signed their full names, asked the Chief Rabbi to bring their plea to the attention of Denmark's Prime Minister, Israel's Premier Golda Meir and United Nations Secretary General U Thant.

Mrs. Meir Prepared To Recommend Israel's Return To Jarring Talks

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir met with United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour in her Tel Aviv office for more than an hour today. The Ambassador is believed to have delivered the latest of the American replies to Israel's request for further clarifications of policy. Government circles believe Mrs. Meir is prepared to recommend Israel's return to the Jarring peace talks at next Sunday's Cabinet meeting. They said her decision depended on the U.S. response to Israel's request for an American promise to use its veto in the Security Council against any attempt by the Arab-Soviet bloc to alter the crucial Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1947. On other matters on which Israel asked clarification, the American response has been only partially satisfactory. Nevertheless, a number of Cabinet ministers are said to support an early return to the Jarring talks. Israel has been asked by the U.S. to state its decision before Christmas to give American officials time to make the necessary arrangements to reactivate the Jarring mission. Washington is believed to want the talks to resume before Jan. 5 when United Nations Secretary General U Thant delivers his progress report on Mideast peace moves to the Security Council. Israelis are said to want the talks to resume well before the Feb. 5 cease-fire deadline to avoid the impression that Israel returned to the negotiations because it was fearful of a new outbreak of fighting.

Mrs. Meir and her advisors were reportedly satisfied with President Nixon's reply to Israel's requests for military aid. He is believed to have stipulated only one exception, the nature of which is classified, because of technical difficulties. On other issues, however, the replies are less than satisfactory but the government is convinced that no further commitments can be extracted from Washington. Government circles believe it is useless to expect the U.S. to give Israel the same unqualified support in the UN that the Arab states receive from the Soviet Union. They say the U.S., which has always been reluctant to exercise its veto power and has done so only rarely, cannot be expected to veto every Security Council resolution that Israel considers unfavorable. But they believe that Washington will stand by its pledge not to permit the watering down of Resolution 242. If such a commitment was received by Mrs. Meir, the way will be open for Israel to return to the Jarring talks, although the move still faces some domestic hurdles. The National Religious Party which holds three Cabinet posts, is not satisfied with the American replies and has threatened a new coalition crisis if they are accepted. Mrs. Meir promised the NRP executive today that the government would decide on its return to the Jarring talks only after "careful study" of the latest American clarifications.

Hussein: Israel Has Right To Exist; Denies Meeting With Allon, Other Israelis

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (JTA)--King Hussein of Jordan will urge American Jews tomorrow night to "use whatever influence they can" to help achieve a lasting Middle East peace and to "prevent suffering occurring to others." In an interview taped here last week and scheduled for telecasting on tomorrow's nationally syndicated David Frost show, the Hashemite monarch was given the opportunity to address American Jews directly. Noting that "we belong originally to the same race" and that the Jews are "a people who have suffered and suffered greatly," he called on them to recognize the woes of "others" because "Two wrongs can't make a right." He appeared to be alluding to the predicament of the Palestinian refugees. If American Jews were to use their influence toward attaining "moderation, reason and logic," King Hussein said, "maybe a way can be found...to establish a just and durable peace in our part of the world, that the future generations live in peace and enjoy the chance to divert all their energies and all their resources to build and attain a happier, brighter future."

He concluded by saying, "This is my plea." At another point in the nearly-one-hour interview, King Hussein asserted that "When we accepted Security Council Resolution 242...we were--and still are--prepared to recognize Israel's right to exist, and equally so her right to live in peace and in security." But the Jordanian leader added that Israel's continued occupation of the Arab areas captured in 1967 "has caused more damage to the possibilities of the prospects of arriving at a solution...than it has done good." On the matter of Jerusalem, the King asserted that "our rights must be recognized, and we must do all we can to safeguard the holy places and insure that they are accessible to all believers." He dismissed as a "really fantastic story" the report that he had met secretly with Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and other Israeli leaders.

Vatican Secures Temporary Injunction Freezing Sale Of Convent To JNF Subsidiary

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA)--The Vatican has secured a temporary injunction from the District Court here against the Himanuta Corporation, a subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund, freezing the sale of the Notre Dame de Sion convent to Himanuta by the Assumptionists, a Catholic order. The convent, situated in a strategically and economically important location just across from the Old City Wall, had been sold to Himanuta on Oct. 23, for use by the Hebrew University, for \$800,000. The negotiations and the contract-signing were conducted secretly in New York out of fear that a premature leak might arouse Vatican protests. The registration of the sale was also done in New York, by an Israeli Land Registry official flown there for that purpose. Beyond the question of the sale, the case carries the much larger question of Israeli-Vatican relations. Israel would probably prefer to avoid a quarrel even if she felt it was justified. The Vatican, represented by Tel Aviv lawyer Abraham Suchovolsky, claims the sale was invalid because the Assumptionists acted without the Vatican's necessary consent and because the sale registration was done outside of Israel. District Court Judge Yehuda Cohen gave the Vatican until Dec. 25 to submit proof of its contentions, with approval of the sale held in abeyance.

A JNF spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the funds considers that "the transaction was made in perfectly legal form according to the laws of the country." The property is earmarked by Himanuta for Hebrew University classrooms and dormitories, although there was no clear explanation of why the university did not buy it directly. Himanuta, wholly owned by the JNF, has as its purpose the buying of real estate that may eventually be resold; the JNF cannot, according to its statutes, resell land it has bought. The four-acre Notre Dame site is a very valuable property that will undoubtedly rise in value as central Jerusalem urbanization progresses. Mr. Suchovolsky told the JTA that he had been given the case by the apostolic delegate here, Bishop Pio Laghi, the personal representative of the Pope in the Holy Land. Bishop Laghi also bears a Vatican power-of-attorney. Fr. Gabriel Slater, head of the convent and the Israel correspondent of the American Catholic News Agency, told the JTA he had sold the convent to Himanuta because its original purpose 70 years ago--to serve as a hostel for pilgrims--had become negligible.

World Jewry In Extraordinary Response To Israel Emergency Fund Campaign For 1971

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Dr. Israel Goldstein, said last night that there were indications of an "extraordinary response" by world Jewry to the \$1 billion Israel Emergency Fund campaign for 1971, judging from the large increase in contributions registered so far. Dr. Goldstein, chairman of Keren Hayesod, reporting at a meeting of its board of directors here said Jewish communities abroad have already contributed or pledged amounts above their record 1967 contributions. At the same time, he noted, most diaspora Jews would have to double or triple their contributions in order to fulfill the quotas set. The Keren Hayesod has set a \$200 million quota for the emergency campaign. American Jewry is expected to contribute \$400 million through the United Jewish Appeal and \$400 million through the purchase of Israel Bonds.

Stone, Levine Honored By World Leaders For Historic Services To Israel

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (JTA)—One thousand Jewish political, communal, scientific and intellectual leaders from the U.S., Israel and Europe last night paid tribute to Dewey D. Stone and Harry Levine for their historic services to the creation and development of the State of Israel and the Weizmann Institute of Science. A dinner held under the auspices of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, marked the 70th birthday of Stone, who has served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Institute since its founding in 1944, and the 75th birthday of Levine, a founding Governor of the Institute and treasurer of its American Committee since it was chartered in New York in 1944. Mrs. Abba Eban represented her husband, Israel's Foreign Minister, who was scheduled to speak at the dinner but could not attend because he was in London meeting with British leaders and attending a conference of Israel's European envoys. In a moving tribute, she said Stone and Levine were being honored "for their human qualities and for the causes to which they have given so much effort, love and loyalty over so many years. If we were to sum up what lies at the heart of their ambition, we could do so in simple words. They have wanted the Jewish people to have a home in which it can live in freedom; in which it can fully express its authentic personality; in which it can build institutions and make them grow and flourish; in which and from which it can give the Jewish people everywhere a cause for dignity and pride."

In another tribute Meyer W. Weisgal, Chancellor of the Institute, said, "Together with their wives they formed what for years, has been almost a self-contained unit, powered by remarkable dedication and devotion to the cause of the Jewish people, of the State of Israel, and of the Weizmann Institute." Greetings were received from Israel from President Zalman Shazar, Premier Golda Meir, David Ben Gurion, and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Shazar recalled the unbroken splendor "of Stone's and Levine's service to Israel decade after decade." Mrs. Meir stated that "In their very persons and by their steadfast devotion and imaginative generosity, have come to symbolize the link between us and the great community of American Jews." Among other greetings received were those from Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress; Dr. Israel Goldstein, world president of Keren Heyesod; Lord Siffo of Brimpton; and Sir Isaac Wolfson, honorary president of the Weizmann Institute Foundation of London.

Mrs. Eban, calling attention to the "real face of Israel, behind its military strength," said "the main theme of Israeli life today is the preoccupation with the problem of peace...We seek peace not only because of revulsion against the futility of war, but also because peace is an autonomous value in itself." In their response, Stone and Levine pledged themselves to continued service to Israel and the Weizmann Institute. They noted that once there is peace with Israel's Arab neighbors, the "know-how" of the Institute's scientists can be applied with equal effectiveness to the entire Mideast area. Stone and Levine were presented with sterling silver plaques. Stephen L. Steinman, the dinner chairman, and joint deputy chairman of the Institute's Board of Governors, presented Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Levine with the Weizmann Award in Sciences and Humanities on behalf of the Board of Governors and Officers of the Institute. The awards were presented "in recognition of uncommon devotion, encouragement and support to the Weizmann Institute of Science as wife and companion - in unflinching labors for the growth and development of the Institute throughout its history."

Congressman Urges Administration To Speak Out Against Trial

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA)—Rep. Joshua Eilberg, Democrat of Pennsylvania, urged the administration today to speak out against the Leningrad trial of Jews alleged to have conspired to hijack a Soviet airliner to effect their escape. President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers should "denounce the trials and demand their cancellation in the name of justice and humanity," Eilberg, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, declared. "The case is simple," he explained. "A United States protest would further focus the world's attention on these trials." Eilberg, who visited Jewish leaders in Moscow and Kiev last year, charged today that the administration and the State Department "have not lifted a pencil or raised the United States' voice above a whisper in protest to these trials."

Rabbi Hurwitz Honored At JNF Dinner; Lord Janner: All Sides Win Or All Sides Lose

NEW YORK, Dec. 17 (JTA)—In an address prepared for delivery tonight at the Jewish National Fund's 31st annual Maccabean Festival dinner, Lord Janner of England declares that "the power struggle within the Arab leadership itself (and) the intervention of Russia are the major causes for the continuation of the struggle which brings profit to no one." The 78-year-old former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews adds: "In this struggle we, the Jewish people, do not wish to see any one side emerge as the victor. For when there is only one victor, both sides will be the eventual loser. We seek a situation whereby both sides will win." In a tribute to the JNF's honored guest, Rabbi E. Judah Hurwitz, secretary-manager of the Kashruth Supervisors Union Local 631, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller calls "Reb Chaim Yudel" one of "a few men who have been able to be both a servant to God and a statesman of labor, and to serve both causes completely." In honor of Rabbi Hurwitz, the JNF is establishing Nachlat Chaim settlement in Israel, designed to be maintained by American labor and religious personnel. JNF president Herman L. Weisman said the settlement "will play a vital role" towards the triumph of "the Maccabees of today." More than 1,500 governmental, labor and religious leaders were scheduled to attend the dinner.

Assembly Resolution Condemns Nazism; Vote For Arrest, Extradition Of War Criminals

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 17 (JTA)—The General Assembly has approved unanimously a resolution condemning Nazism and other forms of racial intolerance—after Israel had joined with the Soviet Union and the Arab bloc in an unsuccessful attempt to retain the word "neo-Nazi." The United States, Britain and France voted to delete it. The resolution passed by 108 to 0, with 6 abstentions. The Assembly also voted in favor of arrest and extradition of war criminals and to continue the work of the Ceylon-Somalia-Yugoslavia committee investigating Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

SPECIAL NEWS ANALYSIS

Soviet Trial Is Warning To All Opponents Of The Regime

BY MURRAY ZUCKOFF

JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY NEWS EDITOR

The trial of the 11 Soviet citizens - seven of whom have been identified as Jews - and three more trials scheduled to be conducted early next year in Leningrad, Kishinev and Riga, is in effect a warning to all those in the Soviet Union and its east European satellites that any opposition to the regime will be unmercifully crushed. The trial is not a "show trial" but a secret trial. It is closed to the foreign press, unsupported by Soviet news agencies, and lawyers from abroad are not permitted to come to the Soviet Union to defend the prisoners in the dock and to assure impartial and objective proceedings. This makes the trial all the more ominous and significant than previously imagined. What is at stake is not merely the right of Jews to emigrate to Israel or any other country of their choice or the right of Jews to live as Jews with the same guarantees that other minority groups have under the Soviet constitution. The trial is not merely an attempt to discourage Jews from emigrating. At stake in this trial and the others scheduled is a concerted effort by the Kremlin rulers to crush all opposition to the regime by those who are dissatisfied with current conditions.

The trial reveals that Jews are in the dock as scapegoats because they are in the forefront of the struggle against the criminal rule of the Russian oligarchs. The Soviet authorities, know better than anyone else that the form of Jewish resistance, which currently is expressed as a struggle for the right to emigrate, has far greater ramifications. The Jews in the Soviet Union, in fact, are inspiring others to open resistance. Unlike the image of Jews in many western countries where they are linked to the status quo, the Soviet Jews are in the forefront of an anti-establishment movement. This does not mean that they are organizing open rebellion but it does mean that their actions are giving heart and courage to others to do so. The sixteen Soviet republics are seething with unrest and discontent. Artists, intellectuals, scientists and writers are in ferment against the stranglehold the ruling elite is exercising on free intellectual expression. But these elements are isolated, atomized and fragmented by the very nature of their profession and generally impotent as a community to exert any far-reaching pressure on the regime. By contrast, the Jews in the Soviet Union, despite their dispersal throughout the country, are a cohesive and integrated community in its traditions, ideals and objectives. They are also, as a national minority, subject throughout the country to the same abuse and chafe under the same repressive mechanism which deprives them of the right - in practice - to pursue their Jewishness.

Soviet Rulers Afraid Defiance Of Jews Will Inspire Others To Rebellion

What undoubtedly concerns the Brezhnev and Kosygin is not the desire of Jews to leave the Soviet Union, but the prospect that their demand, which can be summarized, as "Let us leave or let us live," could open a Pandora's Box and pave the way for the restructuring of the entire social fabric as a more democratic and equitable society. It seems unlikely that a mere wish to emigrate would have required such an elaborate frameup as attempted hijacking. Evidently, what is of greater concern to the Soviet authorities is that the defiance of the Jews against repression, their insistence that they be allowed freedom of expression and movement as provided under what Soviet leaders contend is the "most democratic constitution in the world," will provide the spark and flame for more widespread opposition. One has only to recall how 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 1942 in Babi Yar Forest on the outskirts of Riga. One need only recall the outpourings of thousands of Jews - young and old - on the streets of Leningrad to celebrate Simchat Torah.

One needs also to recall that during the 1930's, the infamous Moscow Trials against the "Old Bolsheviks" - many of whom were Jewish - was sparked by the assassination of Kirov, a Communist Party hack in Leningrad. His assassination, which many Sovietologists contend was ordered by Stalin to serve as a pretext to crush opposition to his rule, was developed as a "plot" against the "workers' republic" by "renegades" and "traitors" working with, if not for, Hitler. But the actual reason for those trials, which lasted three years and which led to the death of dozens of Bolshevik leaders and the incarceration of thousands of people, was to find a scapegoat for the economic failures of the then Five-Year plan. The refusal of the Soviet authorities to permit the foreign press and lawyers to attend the current trial, is also extremely significant and revealing. During the Moscow trials this permission was not only granted but encouraged. At that time, Stalin felt he had the sympathy of the world on his side and an airtight case against the victims. Now, apparently, the Kremlin leaders feel they have neither. The secret trial now being conducted will be recorded as an infamy in the annals of world history. But the heroism of the Jews to confront their oppressors and to speak out, even at the knowledge that they face imprisonment and possible death, will be recorded as a monumental contribution toward ending the Soviet system of despotism. In the last analysis, the struggle to free the Soviet people from the shackles of enslavement - mental and physical - will be attributed to the heroism of those who dared to defy.

French Prime Minister, Notables, Pledge To Intervene With Kremlin On Behalf Of Defendants

PARIS, Dec. 17 (JTA)--Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas and several other prominent Frenchmen have promised to intervene personally with the Kremlin on behalf of the 11 Leningrad trial defendants, at least seven of whom are known to be Jews. Chaban-Delmas is believed to have written already to the Soviet leaders urging them to consider the feelings of Western Europe, especially of France on the trial. A similar letter was reportedly sent to Moscow by former Foreign Minister Maurice Coure de Marville. Chaban-Delmas is said to have made his promise to Salomon Friederich, secretary-general of the Union of Jews from Eastern Europe, who he received at his official residence earlier this week.