

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## March Of 10,000 To Protest Leningrad Trial, Plight Of Soviet Jewry, Ends In Near Riot

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)—A peaceful march up Madison Avenue by an estimated 10,000 persons to protest the Leningrad trial and the treatment of Soviet Jewry, ended in a near riot a block away from the Soviet United Nations Mission today. Eye-witnesses said police used clubs on persons trying to break through barriers 500 feet away from the Mission building. Twelve persons were arrested and five others were hospitalized. At least one man was seen bleeding profusely. Several policemen were injured. At one point about 100 Polish protesters demonstrating at the Mission against the Gomulka regime in Warsaw, mingled with the Jewish demonstrators and shouted, "We're with you." Observers at the scene said the rioting was due to the unruly behavior by members of the Jewish Defense League who were among several thousand persons joining the march at its end, near the Soviet Mission headquarters, and attempted to take it over. The JDL members reportedly incited the demonstrators to break through police lines. By contrast, the march and an earlier rally on behalf of Soviet Jewry in front of the New York Public Library at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, was orderly. It was organized jointly by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, umbrella groups encompassing about 75 local and national Jewish organizations.

The purpose of the rally and march was stated in a joint statement issued by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference on Soviet Jewry and Dr. William Wedder, chairman of the Presidents' Conference, co-sponsors of the rally. Referring to the trial of Jews that opened in Leningrad Dec. 15 and similar trials expected to open there and in other Soviet cities shortly, they declared, "In the Soviet Union, justice is manipulated to serve the ends of the regime. The charges have no resemblance to fact." Schacter and Wedder were joined in the march by Black civil rights leader Bayard Rustin, Father Donald Campton, editor of the Catholic weekly "America," Rep. Edward Koch, New York Democrat, Bronx Boro President Robert Abrams and Stanley Lowell, vice president of the Conference on Soviet Jewry. The marchers in a line stretching eight blocks carried placards reading, "Stop Russian Terror Trials!"; "Kosygin Honor Human Rights!"; "Save Soviet Jewry!"; "Why Arrest Jews For Studying Hebrew!"; and "Russia Stop, You've Spilled Enough Jewish Blood." According to Jewish Telegraphic Agency reporter Yitza Halberstam who was on the scene, there was no generation gap evident in the march. "people over 30 almost matched the number of highschool and college youngsters," she reported.

### Jewish Leaders Say Charges Are Framesp, 'Confessions' Forced

Fred Wohl of North Bellmore, N.J. interviewed by the JTA reporter, said he joined the rally because he was convinced that what was transpiring in Leningrad was a "show trial" and "only the beginning of a campaign of harassment against Soviet Jews." He added, "We are here because we don't want what happened in 1939 to happen again." Another participant, Jack Biller, 50, said it "hurt" him that Russian Jews were being persecuted. Asked if he thought demonstrations made any impression on the Soviet authorities, he replied, "I don't know but it's the only thing I can do to help." Howard Koenig, an 18-year-old Columbia University freshman said "We must protest the mock trials...We are protesting to let the world know, especially the U.S. that there cannot be an entente with a barbaric country." Schacter and Wedder expressed fear that the Leningrad defendants and other Jews to be tried might face the death penalty. They are charged with "banditry and treason" which, under the Soviet criminal code, calls for capital punishment. The charges arise from an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner at Leningrad last June.

The two Jewish leaders said in their joint statement, "The prisoners at the bar in Leningrad today, like other innocents awaiting their turn to be pilloried on trumped up charges, are not criminals brought to justice. They have been chosen by a cynical regime to be made object lessons to the 3 1/2 million Jews of the Soviet Union of what can happen to Jews who have the temerity to ask permission under Soviet law to leave the Soviet Union and go to Israel to live as Jews." Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president of the American Jewish Congress, issued a statement earlier in which he noted that "word coming out of the Soviet Union from the wives, mothers and sisters of the defendants leads us to believe that forced 'confessions' may have been exacted from them." He added that "no Soviet charges against these accused will delude a world that knows their innocence." In a related action, City Council President Sanford D. Garelik introduced a resolution in the City Council deploring "continuing anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, instigated and encouraged by the government of that country." The resolution, introduced Thursday, urged "the governing bodies of every major city in this country and elsewhere" to prepare similar declarations.

## Report Confirms New Trial Scheduled; Four Jews Arrested Reported Released

LONDON, Dec. 20 (JTA)—The opening of a second trial of Jews in Russia at the end of this month, reported by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency last week, was confirmed today in a London Telegraph dispatch from its Moscow correspondent, Frank Taylor. He reported that according to informants the second trial will open Dec. 29 when "a number of people including Jews will be arraigned." According to Taylor they were arrested last June 15 when an alleged plot to hijack a Soviet airliner was disclosed. The JTA reported last week that the second trial in Leningrad, would be followed late this month or early next year by third and fourth trials in Riga and Kishinev. Unconfirmed reports from other Western news sources today indicated that one or more trials are being conducted concurrently with the trial of 11 in Leningrad on hijack charges. According to the sources, the trials have been held in absolute secrecy in several courts under different groups of judges. They are said to involve some 30 men and women rounded up by the Soviet secret police in a number of Russian cities within an hour of the alleged hijacking attempt last June 15.

Western newsmen have been barred from the trial that opened in Leningrad five days ago. Reports from there and from Moscow on the proceedings have been confused and contradictory, leading some observers to the conclusion that Soviet authorities are deliberately using "red herrings" to mislead the public abroad. Sparse facts have been picked up by various newsmen, presumably "leaked" from official sources. Some information has been obtained from Jewish sources. Certain Jews in Riga have reportedly been in telephone contact with the relatives of some of the accused in Israel. The information provided by them has not been confirmed. Some observers believe the local Latvian authorities in Riga permitted the Jews to telephone Israel in order to embarrass their Soviet "bosses." Although many previous reports have indicated that anti-Semitism is worse in Riga than in most other Soviet cities, the Latvians are known to be chafing under Soviet control. According to some knowledgeable sources, the trial in Leningrad and those presumably to come are intended to intimidate not only Jews but other Soviet minorities growing rebellious under Moscow's rule. An example of conflicting reports emanating from the Soviet Union was a dispatch filed by United Press International correspondent Henry Shapiro in Moscow yesterday that four of the seven or more Jews among the 11 defendants in Leningrad have been released, presumably after pleading guilty to the hijack charges.

#### Prosecution Agrees To Drop Charge That Firearms Were To Have Been Used

Shapiro cited statements from Soviet authorities but they contained no reasons for the purported leniency after the defendants allegedly confessed that they were working for "International Zionism." The confessions were said to have been made by three of the defendants under persuasion by a fourth, Maj. Mark Dymshitz, who allegedly was to have piloted the hijacked airliner to Finland. A later report by Shapiro, supported by reports in the London press today, said the persons released were Dymshitz's wife and two teen-aged daughters and an unidentified pregnant woman. The four women were not in the dock at Leningrad but are presumed to have been among the 34 Jews arrested and held incommunicado since last June. Earlier reports said that the wives of several defendants had been offered freedom to emigrate to Israel without their husbands but rejected it. One unconfirmed report said Mrs. Dymshitz had reconsidered.

The Associated Press reported from Moscow yesterday that in a development "very favorable" to the 11 on trial in Leningrad, the prosecution agreed to drop the matter of firearms that were to have been used in the alleged hijacking. A home-made pistol and a pair of brass knuckles were reportedly found on the accused when they were arrested at Smolny Airport last June. The UPI reported yesterday that the Leningrad trial was attended by 100 relatives and friends of the defendants. But Shmuel Zalmanson, father of three of the defendants from Riga, said he was barred from the courtroom after travelling to Leningrad. He made that statement in a telephone call from Leningrad Friday to a brother in Israel. According to some informants in Moscow, the Leningrad trial will wind up on Christmas day, next Friday. Press reports here said that Maj. Dymshitz told the Leningrad court in the course of his confession that he plotted to hijack a Soviet airliner in order to draw world attention to anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and to demonstrate his disapproval of Moscow's Middle East policy. He allegedly said that he persuaded the other defendants to buy tickets on the plane which he intended to take over and land in Finland. One report said that four other persons were arrested at an airport near the Danish border on June 15 where they were waiting for the Leningrad plane.

#### 5000 Join Hunger Strikers at Wailing Wall; Fast To Continue Until Trial Ends

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Two dozen Russian immigrants who have been fasting at the Wailing Wall since the Leningrad trial began five days ago were joined today by some 5000 people from many parts of Israel to demonstrate their solidarity with the Jews of the Soviet Union. Sunday is a regular working day in Israel. The hunger strikers were also joined by Premier Golda Meir and the entire Cabinet which adjourned its weekly meeting at noon. Knesset members, mayors, and heads of workers' councils addressed the demonstration and pledged to do their utmost to pressure Soviet authorities to end their policy of repression against the Jews. The hunger strikers said they would continue their fast until the Leningrad trial ends. For the past five days they have been subsisting on tea. Mrs. Meir said in a radio interview yesterday that there was no solution to the "Jewish problem" in Russia except to permit the Jews who wanted to emigrate to Israel.

She assailed the "fake trial" in Leningrad which, she declared, had only one aim, to frighten and discredit Jews in Russia. She warned that this "outrageous trial" could be the fore-runner of "terrible consequences" for the 3.5 million Jews of Russia. The hunger strikers at the Wailing Wall interrupted their hunger strike on the Sabbath. They were invited to dine with Deputy Premier Yigal Alon whose official residence is nearby. They spent several hours telling of their experiences in the Soviet Union. Some reportedly warned the repression of Jews would worsen unless something is done quickly to extricate them from the USSR. The fasters were visited by 400 doctors and nurses from Hadassah Hospital today. A group of highschool pupils visited them this morning.

#### Israeli Relatives Of Accused Soviet Jews Informed More Than One Trial Now Underway

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Israeli relatives of accused Soviet Jews have received information by telephone over the week-end indicating that more than one trial is underway in the Soviet Union involving Jews accused of hijack attempts and other offenses. According to a telephone call from Riga last night 23-year-old Boris Mafstir, a photographer, was sentenced to five years imprisonment at a secret trial in Riga. A call received by a recent immigrant from Russia in Haifa from a Jewish friend in Moscow claimed that another Jew, Grigorie Feigin of Riga, was forcibly removed from his home on Friday and taken to a mental institution. Mafstir was said to have been on trial in connection with the alleged hijack plot. His arrest however reportedly took place last Aug. 4. The Leningrad defendants were arrested on June 15. He was said to have been accused of "participation in a Zionist plot and distribution of anti-Soviet material."

Mafstir was a signatory of petitions to Soviet authorities demanding the right to emigrate to Israel. His home was searched at the time of his arrest and Hebrew books were seized, according to the report.

The Feigin case was apparently unrelated to the hijacking attempt. Feigin, who held the rank of Major in the Soviet armed forces during World War II, was in the news last year when he returned his military decorations in a public protest against the Kremlin's anti-Jewish policy. His letter to the Soviet authorities was published in the Chicago Tribune last May 7. According to the informant, an ambulance pulled up at Feigin's house at two p.m. Friday and a group of male nurses forced him into it and took him to "Psychiatric Hospital 15." The informant said that Feigin was told that "normal people do not return Soviet medals." There was no immediate explanation as to why the Soviet authorities waited until now to incarcerate Feigin or how the informant was apprised of what Feigin was told.

### Cabinet Debates Israel's Return To Jarring Talks But Fails To Reach Conclusion

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--The Cabinet debated Israel's return to the Jarring peace talks for two hours today but reached no conclusions. An official communique said the debate would be resumed at the next session, meeting next Sunday. Official sources said that "at the present stage there is no plan to hold an extraordinary meeting in mid-week, there being no extraordinary political reason for it." The debate is believed to have focused on whether the latest messages from Washington clarifying the U.S. position were sufficient to meet Israel's terms for returning to the peace talks. The U.S. reportedly gave satisfactory replies with regard to Israel's request for military aid but refused to commit itself to veto resolutions in the Security Council that Israel might consider harmful or to abandon the Rogers' plan calling for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 borders. The official Cabinet communique stated that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reported on his talks with President Nixon, Defense Secretary Laird and Secretary Rogers in Washington last week-end and that Foreign Minister Abba Eban reviewed political affairs.

Eban returned from London on Friday night where he met with Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home and presided at a meeting of Israeli Ambassadors from the Continent and Scandinavia. He told newsmen at the airport, "I discussed with (Sir Alec Douglas) Home matters which caused Israel concern, following recent manifestations which found their expression in votes at the United Nations." He said the talks were mainly concerned with "improving the atmosphere which has been created by these manifestations." He said that Sir Alec had made "great efforts to impress upon me that no change has occurred in British policy which is that Israel should not agree to any arrangement which would not ensure its security." A Cabinet decision on the Jarring talks had been expected at today's session and there was no indication why it has been delayed. The U.S. had reportedly urged Israel to come to a decision before Christmas to give American officials time to make the necessary arrangements for reactivating the Jarring talks. The U.S. is reportedly anxious to have the talks resumed before Jan. 5 when Secretary General U Thant delivers his Mideast progress report to the Security Council.

### Heath Urges Jarring To Take Initiative And Not To Wait For Parties To Come To Him

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Prime Minister Edward Heath of Britain, called on United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring today to take the initiative toward a Middle East settlement instead of waiting for the parties to come to him. Appearing on the CBS television program "Meet The Press," Heath said that Jarring should be "not only a letterbox" for the disputants but "can put forward options to each side." Heath said it was "obviously true" that the Jarring mission has not been successful to date. His remarks surprised some observers here who noted that he was suggesting that Jarring play a larger role than the one presumably envisaged in his peace-making mandate which derives from the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967. Paragraph 3 of the resolution requested the United Nations Secretary General to designate a special representative to "establish and maintain contacts with the states concerned in order to promote agreement and assist efforts to achieve a peaceful and accepted settlement in accordance with the provisions and principles of this resolution."

While the words "to promote agreement and assist efforts" are open to broader interpretations, Jarring has held that his role is that of mediator and could be altered only by Security Council action. Heath did not propose such action in his CBS interview. Heath said, in reply to questions on Secretary of State William P. Rogers' controversial territorial proposals of last year, that he has been unable to find out what Israel means by "secure borders." Israel has objected strenuously to the Rogers plan which would have it withdraw to its 1967 boundaries with only minor adjustments. Heath said he has thrown out various suggestions to Israeli leaders since then but has had no reply. He noted that proposals for a U.S.-Soviet peace-keeping force in the Mideast would be acceptable if it was "satisfactory" to both parties--Arabs and Israelis--but he declined to say whether or not Britain was prepared to supply troops for such a force.

### Rockets Fired On Jerusalem Quarter; One Landing Near Shazar's Residence Is Dud

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Two Katusha rockets were fired at the Katamon quarter of Jerusalem this morning in the first attack of its kind since the cease-fire went into effect last August. No casualties were reported but one residence in the wealthy quarter was damaged. One rocket landed about 50 yards from the residence of President Zalman Shazar but failed to explode. It was detonated safely by police. The second rocket exploded in the kitchen of a home where four women were having coffee but none were injured. Police said the rockets appeared to have been fired from the direction of Beit Jalla, a Christian Arab village on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Three Arab terrorists were killed in a clash with an Israeli Army patrol near the Lebanese border yesterday. There were no Israeli casualties. The patrol crossed into Lebanon for a distance of about five kilometers and dynamited a building believed to have served as the terrorists' regional headquarters. An Israeli Army spokesman said that six Egyptian intelligence agents were captured near Sharm el-Sheikh last Thursday. He said that an officer and private among them were members of Egyptian Army's intelligence corps and the four others were Bedouins.

### Report Condition Of Iraqi Jews Deteriorating; Face Physical Persecution

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20 (JTA)--Tourists arriving here from Arab countries have reported that the situation of the remaining Jews there is as bad as ever. An American visitor recently in Iraq said the economic position of Iraqi Jews has deteriorated and they face physical persecution. According to a tourist from Egypt, there are still Jews under detention in that country.

## AJCongress Leader Charges Quaker Report On Mideast Contains Anti-Jewish Bias

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)—The American Friends Service Committee was accused today of "despised, unconscious anti-Jewish bias" in its report, "Search for Peace in the Middle East." Judge Justice Wise Poller, chairman of the Committee on Israel of the American Jewish Congress, charged in an "Open Letter to the Friends" that the Quaker theme of peace had been "obscured and distorted by persistent notes of anti-Jewish prejudice." The result, she said, has "created an awful gulf between those responsible for this document and Jews everywhere." Judge Poller's statement was published in the current issue of Congress bi-Weekly magazine, the official publication of the Congress. The AJCongress leader sits on the bench of the New York Family Court. Because of the Friends' long record of humanitarian service and claim of impartiality, Judge Poller wrote, the report was "more disturbing than blatant attacks against Israel by those who have sworn to destroy it or by the position of openly anti-Semitic groups."

The Friends report, which had been widely circulated in a number of drafts and in pamphlet form for about a year, was recently published as a Fawcett paperback. The "working party" which prepared the report for the Friends was headed by Landrum Bolling, who is president of Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. The report called on Israel to take the first step toward peace by pledging to withdraw from the occupied territories and to institute a program of major aid to the Palestinian refugees. Judge Poller wrote that the study, "under the guise of an appeal, threatens that if American Jews put too much pressure on government officials on behalf of Israel, it may endanger 'interfaith harmony and brotherhood between American citizens.'....Do not the Friends realize that if this is the price demanded, they have reduced 'interfaith harmony and brotherhood' to a mockery, a snare and a delusion?" She observed that possibly the "most shocking evidence of a regression by Friends to historic bigotry against Jews is to be found in its repeated references to Israel striking back on a 'two eyes for an eye' basis. One must ask why Friends should seek to give the impression that Israeli counterterror stemmed from a religious commitment to vengeance through a false quotation from the Old Testament?"

Judge Poller, who is a national vice president of the American Jewish Congress and a former president of its National Women's Division, charged further that "the question of anti-Jewish prejudice on a conscious or unconscious level is again raised by the use of language and the text itself." She declared: "Thus, despite efforts to appear impartial, the study repeatedly refers to terror and counterterror without acknowledging that, with less than a handful of exceptions, the terror has always been initiated by the Arabs." The study, she continued, also singles out by name "the only tragic assault by a Jewish extremist group on an Arab village in April 1948 before there was a government of Israel. No bus massacre of Israeli children or bombing of civilian areas are mentioned by name. Even Arab terror that brought death to Israelis is minimized as 'irritating border attacks.'" Judge Poller urged the authors of the report "to re-examine their own hearts and conscience."

## Torch From Israel Relayed To Brooklyn College To Start Celebration Of Chanukah

BROOKLYN, N.Y., Dec. 20 (JTA)—A marathon relay of 25 Brooklyn College students will carry a torch, kindled in Modia, Israel, from Kennedy Airport to the Brooklyn campus on Tuesday to celebrate the start of Chanukah. The students will run in groups of three for a half mile each; one student will carry the torch, while the other two runners carry American and Israeli flags. The torch will be run through the streets of Queens and Brooklyn to the campus' Hillel Gate for transmission to leaders of the Brooklyn College B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation which is sponsoring the event. A ceremony will be held on the College Quadrangle where the torch will be used to symbolically light a massive six-foot Menorah erected on the Quadrangle. Colonel Giora Navon, Military Attaché of the Israeli Mission to the United Nations, will represent Israel at the ceremony. Professor Harry Albaum, Dean of the Faculties, will represent Brooklyn College. Students, faculty and members of the community will also participate. The torch was made possible through the cooperation of the Massada Youth Organization of Israel and El Al Airlines personnel.

## State Supreme Court Orders JDL To Halt Harassing Federation Of Jewish Philanthropies

NEW YORK, Dec. 20 (JTA)—The Jewish Defense League is under a State Supreme Court order against harassing the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, a recent target of actions by the JDL. An injunction issued Friday by Justice Edward Greenfield declared that the JDL "had no right to interfere with the home lives or private businesses of officers and trustees" of the Federation. The Justice accepted the basic contention of the Federation that the JDL had illegally disrupted several Federation fund-raising activities and picketed private businesses of Federation officials. The specifics of Justice Greenfield's order will be spelled out later in legal papers scheduled to be submitted to him by the JDL and the Federation. The jurist declared, in his ruling, that there were indications that the JDL had "transcended the bounds of permissible conduct and threatens to do so in the future." He said that the court "cannot be drawn into the controversy as to what is a proper purpose for Jewish philanthropy." Justice Greenfield also held that "the right to disagree freely does not encompass the right to impose one's will on others through illegal coercion or disruption."

## \$10.5 Million Raised By Combined Jewish Appeal And Israel Emergency Fund

MONTREAL, Dec. 20 (JTA)—The Combined Jewish Appeal and Israel Emergency Fund has raised a total of \$10.5 million in its Fall campaign, a spokesman for the organizations announced here today. The campaign, led by Thomas O. Hecht, was reported to be the most successful one ever launched in this community, with the exception of the campaign during 1967, when \$14.5 million was raised. The amount raised this year represents a \$1.4 million increase over the sum netted in 1969. Fears expressed by some members of the Montreal community, that the recent political turmoil in Quebec and relatively poor business conditions in Montreal might hurt the campaign, proved unfounded. Hecht will be succeeded in 1971 as general chairman of the Combined Jewish Appeal by Joseph Afn, an associate chairman of this year's campaign.