

# 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

Tuesday, December 29, 1970

No. 249

## Nine Jews To Go On Trial In Leningrad Jan. 6; Accused Of Zionist Activity

LONDON, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Seven of nine Jews expected to go on trial in Leningrad on Jan. 6 were identified today. According to information reaching here, 12 others will be tried shortly in Riga and Kishinev. The defendants in the second Leningrad trial were reportedly arrested after an alleged attempt to hijack a Soviet airliner last June 15 for which two Jews have already been sentenced to death and nine others received prison terms of four to 15 years. But their arrests did not take place at Leningrad's Smolny Airport where the original 11 were apprehended. One of them, Solomon Boguslawsky, was arrested after he protested publicly against the earlier Leningrad arrests. The names of six others were given as Grigory Gutman, Lev Yagman, Lev Kornblit, Lasal Kaminsky, Vladimir Mogilever and Victor Shpilbans, the latter a doctor. A woman identified as Ruth Alexandrovich will reportedly stand trial in Riga. Lev Kornblit is believed to be a 33-year-old dentist who was identified by Soviet authorities as Michael Kornblit when they arrested him last month. Miss Alexandrovich reportedly knew some of the Leningrad defendants and was accused by Soviet authorities of expressing anti-Soviet sentiments and discussing with her friends her hope of emigrating to Israel.

Only vague charges have been lodged against the Jews facing trial in Riga and Kishinev, it was learned here. So far they have been accused of spreading Zionist propaganda but no other specifics have been made public including the nature of the alleged Zionist propaganda and how it was spread. The Soviet secret police arrested them apparently after they applied for exit visas to go to Israel. Meanwhile, observers here saw little chance that the appeals by the Leningrad 11 would be successful. Two of them, Mark Dymshitz, the alleged leader of the so-called hijack plot, and Edvard Kuznetsov, were sentenced to death by firing squad. Prison terms meted out to the other defendants were: Josef Mendelovich and Yuri Federov, 15 years each; Alexander Murzhenko, 14 years; Lieb Khanokh, 13 years; Boris Penson, 10 years; Anatoly Altman, 12 years; Israel Zalmanson, eight years; Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, 10 years; Mendel Bodnia, four years. According to information received here today, the two sentenced to death made statements to the court after sentence was pronounced. Kuznetsov reportedly said, "I never intended to harm the Soviet Union in any way. All I wanted was to live in Israel. I did not regard this as a hostile act to Russia." Dymshitz reportedly called the sentences "extremely cruel" but said he was grateful "for the mercy shown my wife and daughter" who were released. He said the prosecutor had assumed crimes which had never been committed.

## Clemency For Leningrad 11 Urged By French, Danish, Norwegian, Australian Governments

PARIS, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The French government, which has had serious differences with Israel over the last three years, has emerged in the forefront of European powers urging clemency for two Russian Jews sentenced to death in Leningrad last week. Such an appeal was conveyed by the French Ambassador in Moscow today to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned that this initiative was taken on the personal instructions of President Georges Pompidou. (Similar appeals for clemency have been sent to Moscow by Premier Hillmar Baunsgaard of Denmark; Norwegian Premier Per Borten and Premier John Gorton of Australia. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, declared that he was deeply concerned over the harsh sentences and would exert whatever influence he could to save the lives of the two condemned men. A Vatican spokesman said today that "it was to be assumed that the Holy See was quietly urging Soviet authorities to spare the lives of the two men sentenced to death in Leningrad.") French protests against the Leningrad verdicts and sentences have come from the entire political spectrum, ranging from this country's powerful Communist Party to the Gaullists who govern France.

Prominent Frenchmen, among them Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas and former Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, have sent personal messages to the Kremlin warning Soviet leaders of the consequences should the Leningrad death sentences be carried out. Sources here claimed today that initial reaction from Moscow indicated surprise over the passionate outpouring of protest from France and led them to believe that the Leningrad sentences would not be carried out and that further trials of Soviet Jews might be cancelled. Public reaction to the sentences has been vigorous. A mass public rally will be held in front of the Paris City Hall on Wednesday night. Police meanwhile have posted a 24-hour guard around Soviet offices here following an attack on the Intourist, Soviet tourist bureau office here tonight. Demonstrators smashed several windows and broke office equipment before they were forcibly removed by police. Anti-Soviet demonstrations occurred in Marseilles where nine Jewish youths have been on a hunger strike since last Friday when the Leningrad sentences were officially announced.

French newspapers, including the Communist Party organ L'Humanite, have condemned the Leningrad trial and sentences. Le Figaro published an editorial today signed by the Catholic writer Thierry Maulnier, which described the Leningrad proceedings as "a trial of all the Jews in Russia." A serious rift reportedly developed within the French Communist Party over the Leningrad trial between the old hard-line Stalinist and liberal factions. The latter have argued that failure to oppose the Leningrad trial would alienate the party from French workers. The Stalinists reportedly accept this argument but insist on an uncompromising denunciation of Israel and Zionism. (The Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano published an unsigned article today disclosing that many "highly qualified" appeals have been received by Pope Paul requesting his intervention on behalf of the Leningrad defendants. According to the article, said to have been "inspired by the highest authority," a "respectful and self-possessed" demonstration on behalf of the Leningrad 11 was held during the Pope's Christmas message in St. Peter's Square. The article said that while the Holy See has no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, "We are in a position to assure that it does everything possible in this instance.")

## Nobel Laureates, Pulitzer Prize Winners, Educators, Protest Soviet 'Police Action'

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Five Nobel laureates, two Pulitzer Prize winners and dozens of educators have signed petitions protesting the Leningrad trial and sentences of Jews and others accused of attempted hijacking. Three Nobel winners--Dr. Arthur Kornberg (Physiology and Medicine, 1959), Dr. George Wald (Physiology and Medicine, 1967) and Dr. Eugene P. Wigner (Physics, 1963)--joined with Pulitzer writers Arthur Miller and Robert Penn Warren in an interreligious, interracial protest against "a nationally concerted police action based on high-level policy, aimed at militant Jews...seeking help in their desire to leave the USSR for Israel." The other signers of that petition, which was sent to the Kremlin, were novelist Saul Bellow, academician Noam Chomsky, historian Henry Steele Commager, Notre Dame president Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, writer Alfred Kazin, critic Dwight Macdonald, scientist Hans J. Morgenthau and black activist Bayard Rustin. Dr. Wald and a fellow Nobel laureate, Dr. Salvador E. Luria (Physiology and Medicine, 1969), sent a joint letter to the Soviet ambassadors in Washington and at the United Nations, Anatoly F. Dobrynin and Yakov A. Malik, asking whether the Kremlin had "gone into the business of making martyrs to decency and freedom for all the world to see."

They noted that the Palestinian hijackers of planes last September "went scot-free," and asked: "Has the government of the Soviet Union no concern for human rights or for the decent opinion of mankind?" A 1970 Nobel winner, Dr. Paul A. Samuelson (Economic Science), and 24 other professors sent a telegram to Dobrynin expressing their "shock" at the "severe" sentences and urging mercy for the two prisoners condemned to death. They asked that the Soviet leaders "reconsider their attitude toward emigration." The signers of the telegram included David Riesman, Nathan Glazer, Talcott Parsons, Seymour Martin Lipset and William Leuchtenberg. Prof. Chomsky and 10 other educators sent another wire to Dobrynin stating that "We in the academic community are appalled by the harsh sentence meted out" and asking why assertion of the right to emigrate should be deemed "a capital crime." More than 100 professors at Harvard, Tufts and Brandeis Universities cabled Dobrynin that they could not remain "silent in the face of a campaign of blatant anti-Semitism." Writer Howard Fast, who forsook the Communist Party in the 1950s, sent a telegram to Konstantin Fedin, head of the Soviet Writers Union in Moscow, to "beg you to protest this action and to ask your fellow writers to protest it--in the name of all mankind."

Fast declared that the death sentence has become "an act of barbarism that will destroy the last shreds of trust that so many people still have in the Soviet Union." He said that "In its unreason and mindlessness, it is reminiscent of the most hideous persecutions of the Czar against the Jewish people and it can only serve to increase the melancholy and hopelessness that men of good will in my land feel when they look toward the Soviet Union." New York City's five district attorneys have written to Soviet prosecutors Roman A. Rudenko and S.Y. Soloviov asking permission to attend the upcoming closed trials in return for the pair's "right to attend and report to your people and to the world upon any trial or proceedings within the jurisdiction of our offices." They added that "we are familiar with the gravity of your responsibilities and know that you must share with us a common devotion to the cause of equal justice under law." Mayor John V. Lindsay declared he was "deeply distressed and shocked" by the Leningrad sentences, continuing: "In this time of prayers for peace and good will I join with all of the people of our city in praying for justice and mercy for the Leningrad defendants and for the rights of Soviet Jewry."

## Jan. 7 Proclaimed Day Of Fast, Prayer; British Government Protests Sentences

LONDON, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits today proclaimed Jan. 7 as a day of fast and prayer for the Jews sentenced in Leningrad and Soviet Jewry in general. Synagogues in London and other cities will be open for prayers from early morning until the fast ends at night, the Chief Rabbi's office announced. A public meeting to protest the Leningrad trial will be held here Wednesday, according to an announcement by the Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry. It will be addressed by Gideon Hausner, the Israeli lawyer who prosecuted Adolf Eichmann and Tina Brodetskaya, a Jewess from Russia who was permitted to leave after a prolonged quest for an exit visa. Twenty-eight major Jewish organizations met here today under the aegis of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to discuss the situation arising from the Leningrad trial. The meeting unanimously adopted a statement warning against "recent anti-Semitic developments in the Soviet Union that can only be regarded as the most serious threat to Jewish citizens."

Yesterday, the British government sent a formal expression of concern to Moscow over the sentences imposed on the Leningrad defendants. The Soviet Ambassador was invited to the Foreign Office yesterday morning where he was received by Sir Dennis Greenhill, Permanent Undersecretary, in connection with the Leningrad trial. The envoy reportedly promised to convey the British view to his government immediately. The Soviet Embassy took the unusual step of announcing the Leningrad verdict in its London news service. Sir Dennis reportedly saw the Soviet Ambassador on instructions by telephone from Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home who is vacationing in Scotland. Sources here said the government's action resulted from representations made to the Foreign Office by the Board of Deputies of British Jews. A Catholic leader, John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster in Britain, sent a telegram to the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Nikodin, asking him to "implore the Soviet government to show clemency to our Jewish brothers."

## Trial, Sentences Protested By Jewish Communities In Buenos Aires, Santiago

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Argentine Jewry is protesting the Leningrad trial and the death and prison sentences meted out to the 11 defendants. Posters have appeared all over the city urging public opinion to "stay the hand of the executioners." The Jewish Association of Survivors of Nazi Persecution cabled President Nikolai Podgorny of the Soviet Union today calling on the Soviet government to commute the sentences. The message, signed by the organization's president, Jose Moskovits and its secretary, Abraham Dereczynski declared, "We assure your excellency that we are not moved by anti-Soviet hysteria but wish to save the lives of our brethren unjustly condemned."

## Cabinet Approves Resolution To Return To Talks; Knesset Approval Seems Certain

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The Cabinet cleared the way for an early resumption of the Jarring peace talks today when it approved a resolution recommended by Premier Golda Meir which stated that "under the present political and military conditions it is possible and justified to discontinue the suspension of Israel's participation in the talks under the auspices of Ambassador Gunnar Jarring." The resolution authorized Foreign Minister Abba Eban to take "the necessary steps arising from the Cabinet's decision." The decision was unanimous, although two ministers were absent from today's session. Labor Minister Joseph Almogi had asked earlier that his vote be registered as affirmative and Minister of Tourism, Moshe Kol, now visiting the United States, is known to favor rejoining the Jarring talks.

The motion will go before the Knesset tomorrow where its approval seems virtually assured. Premier Meir is expected to make it clear in her address to the Chamber tomorrow that Israel does not accept the territorial proposals advanced a year ago by U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers. Mrs. Meir has not yet ironed out her difficulties with one of her coalition partners, the National Religious Party. The NRP is split over the issue of the Jarring talks. Its executive committee said last night that NRP Knesset members would be free to vote their conscience on the return motion unless the Prime Minister made it a vote of confidence in the government, in which case party discipline would have to prevail. But Mrs. Meir told the NRP that she would regard negative votes by any of its Knesset members as a breach of joint coalition responsibility and reportedly implied that she was prepared to break up her party's coalition with the NRP.

## Israeli Soldier Killed, Five Wounded In Raid On Terrorist Base In Lebanon

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier was killed and five were wounded last night in a raid on terrorist bases in Yaater village, three miles inside Lebanon. An unspecified number of terrorists were killed and four buildings were blown up. A military spokesman said Yaater served as a base for El Fatah, the Syrian-sponsored Saiqa guerrillas and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He said terrorist activity from Lebanon had increased considerably lately. The most recent incident was an explosion that damaged two houses in Kibbutz Yiron in northern Israel.

## World Medical Association Refuses To Act On Behalf Of 18 Riga Doctors, Nurses

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The World Medical Association, based here, has declined to take unilateral action in response to a plea from 18 Jewish doctors and nurses of Riga, Soviet Latvia, for aid in emigrating for Israel. A spokesman for the association told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that under its bylaws it could not act in such a case unless asked to by the associated medical group in the country in question--in this case the USSR Union of Sanitary Workers or one of the various Soviet scientific and medical academies. The spokesman conceded that government strictures would probably prevent such institutions from sponsoring the Jewish doctors' appeal. But she said the appeal--one of several in recent years--had been forwarded to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for action.

The letter was forwarded to the World Medical Association by the Israel Medical Association, one of its members, after it had arrived too late for consideration by the Third International Conference on Care of Public Health, Great Britain-Edinburgh, held in the Scottish city in September. In addition, the British Medical Association replied to the Riga 18 and forwarded their request to the Soviet Embassy in London and to the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow. The Riga plea stated that "An extreme sense of despair has forced us to appeal to this great (Edinburgh) forum with a call for help." The petitioners said they had "appealed over the years to Soviet authorities with the request to be allowed to go to our homeland in Israel to join our relatives," but had been met with "constant refusals." Declaring that "only on the soil of our homeland can we live full lives," the Latvians asked for help to "fulfill our unchallengeable right, the right of free men to live in the land of their forefathers."

## Sadat: No Diplomatic Relations With Israel; Israel's View: Another In Chain Of Threats

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has declared that never in this generation will Egypt enter into diplomatic relations with Israel. But he said that his country was ready to "recognize the rights of Israel as an independent state" provided that Israel evacuates "every inch" of Egyptian territory it captured in the Six-Day War. That hard line was stated with fervor by the successor to the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser in an interview with New York Times correspondent James Reston published today. It was the first detailed definition of Egypt's conditions for peace but it did not contain, except by inference, Egypt's demand that Israel submit a withdrawal timetable in advance of peace talks as a condition for extending the present cease-fire. Sadat said his government would "welcome a guarantee by the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France, of all Middle East borders including Israel's" as a first step in a peace settlement.

Sadat said he was ready immediately to negotiate Israel's "rights of passage" through the Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba. But he was adamant that the Suez Canal will not be open to Israeli shipping until there is a settlement of the Palestinian refugee problem. His stand on that subject was the first by an Egyptian leader to make the resolution of the refugee problem a pre-condition for Israeli navigation of the Suez Canal. (Government circles in Jerusalem characterized Sadat's remarks to Reston as "yet another in a long chain of threatening statements from Egypt.") They told the JTA that "in the past three weeks there has been an escalation in the verbal position of Egypt, each public statement being less compromising and more threatening than the last." Referring to Sadat's stated willingness to recognize Israeli sovereignty after it withdraws from Egyptian territory, a government source told the JTA, "We shall judge Sadat by his actions rather than by his words.")

### SPECIAL LATE NEWS BULLETIN

## Report Soviet Union To Hold An Appeal Hearing On Leningrad 11

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--A report reaching here from the Soviet Union late this evening stated that the Soviet authorities had decided to hold an appeal hearing tomorrow morning on the Leningrad 11. Sources close to the scene expressed surprise since it normally takes six to eight weeks to arrange such an appeal. This may indicate that there may be clemency for the two defendants sentenced to death.

## 100-Hour Vigil Begins; 2500 Stage Rally; Rabbi Kahane, 11 Others Arrested

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--Eleven persons were arrested and five were injured in mid-Manhattan last night when Jewish demonstrators tried to break through police barricades to reach the Soviet United Nations Mission to protest the trial and sentencing of Jews in Leningrad. Three of the injured were policemen and two were demonstrators. One youth reportedly required 14 stitches. Among those arrested was Rabbi Meir Kahane, chairman of the Jewish Defense League. He had just finished addressing an estimated 2500 protestors at Hunter College auditorium where he vowed "Two Russians for every Jew." Rabbi Kahane was arrested after he allegedly exhorted a crowd of several thousand near the Mission headquarters to break through the police lines. He and 11 others were charged with disorderly conduct, loitering and inciting to riot and were arraigned today. They were released on their own recognizance and a hearing has been set for Jan. 7. The Hunter College rally marked the opening of a "100 hour vigil," a campaign of continuous anti-Soviet demonstrations to last through the final 100 hours of 1971. The vigil is sponsored by Betar, a militant Zionist youth group, the JDL, the Ecumenical Council Against Religious Persecution, the New York Council on Soviet Jewry and Haverah.

The vigil was continued today by about 300 persons who picketed the United States Mission to the United Nations demanding an end to the SALT disarmament talks, no peace talks and no trade talks with the Soviet Union until it frees all Jews sentenced and detained. Today's picketers consisted of JDL members and others and, according to the JTA reporter on the scene, at least one member of the Weathermen, the radical student organization. A JDL spokesman claimed today that police had provoked last night's melee and arrested Rabbi Kahane, hoping that the 100-hour vigil would collapse if he were absent. The spokesman accused the police of using anti-Semitic epithets against the demonstrators but was unable to produce independent witnesses to substantiate that charge. The crowd attending the rally at Hunter College last night was inflamed by the severe sentences imposed by a three-man Leningrad court last week on 11 persons, nine of them Jews, for allegedly plotting to hijack a Soviet airliner. Two of the defendants received the death penalty and the others drew prison terms of four-15 years. The protestors shouted such slogans as "Never Again," "Let My People Go" and "Open Up the Iron Door."

One speaker was Rep. Mario Biaggi, a Bronx Democrat, who told the audience that although he is not Jewish, "I am here because my immigrant parents taught me that when you see a wrong, try to make it right." Rabbi Jacob Bulka, of Congregation Adas Yeshurun in the Bronx, urged American Jews to "take advantage of your freedom here to bring freedom to the Jews there (in Russia)." The frenzied ovation given Kahane when he rose to speak indicated that a large portion of the audience consisted of JDL members and their sympathizers. The JDL has been vigorously condemned by major American Jewish organizations for disorderly and inflammatory behavior. Rabbi Kahane referred to them when he claimed that Russian Jewry can never be destroyed by the Soviets; "The only ones who can destroy them are the silent Jews of America." He added: "We still have the stench of Auschwitz in our nose and so we say to (Premier Alexsei) Kosygin and (Communist Party Secretary Leonid) Brezhnev 'Up Against the Wall'." Bert Zweibon, JDL General Consul, told the Hunter College audience that "Never Again" is not a slogan. "It is a commitment of both body and soul to the future." He added that it was time to "call the bluff" of religious groups who claim that the JDL method is not the Jewish way to demonstrate. "Tell them to say tehillim (psalms)," Zweibon declared. "And once they say tehillim, they will join us in our demonstrations."

## Jewish Businesses Urged To Close For Two Hours So Employees Can Attend Mass Rally

NEW YORK, Dec. 28 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress called on all Jewish businesses in New York City to close from noon to two p.m. on Wednesday to permit their employees to attend a mass demonstration at which Mayor John V. Lindsay is expected to issue a proclamation expressing solidarity with Soviet Jews. The AJCongress asked motorists to keep their headlights on and churches to ring their bells in unison at one p.m. Wednesday as a gesture of support for the Leningrad 11 accused who were sentenced last week. The AJCongress also announced that it would change the message on its "hot line" which gives 24 hour information on Soviet Jewry to persons dialing the telephone number, TR 9-4553. The current message urges callers to telegraph President Nixon to intercede with Soviet authorities on behalf of the Leningrad 11, and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin to ask his government to set aside the sentences. The new message, an AJCongress spokesman said, will provide the latest information on the fate of the accused. The AJCongress also announced there will be special synagogue services throughout the city tomorrow evening.

## Jewish High School Students To Be Subsidized To Visit Israel Before Entering College

WESTFIELD, N.J., Dec. 28 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council has established an "Israel Subsidy Program" to encourage every Jewish high school student in the town to visit Israel before college, it was announced here today. The program has been funded by the local Welfare Fund through a first-year allocation of \$10,000, according to Sanford Simon, Welfare Fund chairman. This program is believed to be the first of its kind in the country. A community of 4,000 Jews, Westfield since 1968 has been sending 20 to 30 students a year to Israel on summer programs. Through the subsidy, leaders expect to double this number in a short time, creating a "snow-ball" effect so that it becomes "in" to go to Israel. This summer between 20 to 40 students will receive grants of \$250 to \$500 to assist them in joining programs sponsored by the National Federation of Temple Youth, American Zionist Youth Foundation, Young Judea and others, according to Dr. Harold Wasserman, Community Council president. Rabbi Charles A. Kroloff of Westfield's Temple Emanu-El praised the Community Council's leadership for its vision. "These subsidies," he stated, "will serve a dual purpose. They will strengthen our local youth and simultaneously prepare the next generation to meet its responsibilities to Israel. Those who maintain that all of our funds must go directly to Israel are short-sighted. Unless we raise a new generation of committed American Jews, both Israel and American Jewry will be in deep trouble in 20 years." More than a dozen communities have already contacted Westfield seeking details in order to establish similar programs in their areas, according to a Council spokesman.