

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Tuesday, January 12, 1971

No. 7

Zalmanson To Appeal Sentence; Feigin Thanks Kibbutz Friends For Their Help

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Lt. Wolf Zalmanson will appeal the ten year prison sentence handed down last week by a Soviet military tribunal for his alleged role in a plot to hijack a Soviet airliner. It was learned today. His plans were disclosed by his father, Josef, in a telephone call to relatives in Israel. The elder Zalmanson said he was permitted to visit his son, an engineer officer in the Russian Army, after sentence was pronounced. He said the young man asked Israeli relatives to send him a Hebrew primer so that he could study the language while in prison. Zalmanson's brother Isaac, his sister Silva and his brother-in-law, Edvard Kuznetsov, were sentenced to severe prison terms by a Leningrad City Court last month. Kuznetsov was originally sentenced to death but the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation later commuted his sentence to 15 years at hard labor and reduced the sentences of several other defendants. According to his father, Zalmanson said he would appeal because he has nothing to lose. Members of Kibbutz Bar Am said today that they had received a cable of thanks from former Major Grischa Feigin of Riga who was released from a mental home recently. Feigin, a much decorated hero of World War II, was committed after he returned his medals in protest against Soviet anti-Jewish policy. His cable to his friends at Bar Am said, "We all thank you. Our hearts and souls are with you."

Jarring's Trip To Israel Reported Gesture Of Independence From Big Four Pressure

STOCKHOLM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Diplomatic circles close to Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring said today that the United Nations Middle East mediator's flight to Jerusalem at the invitation of the Israel government last week was a gesture of independence from Big Four pressure on how and where to conduct his peace mission. The circles said that Dr. Jarring, who also serves as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow, has resented the constant pressure from the Four Powers as to where to go, how to react to situations and what to say in official statements. He wants to assert his right to choose his own methods and the site of his contacts with the disputing parties, they said. According to these circles, Dr. Jarring was on the verge of resigning at one stage because he felt he was not being given a chance to exercise his own initiative within his mandate from the Security Council. They said he intends to continue his independent line and thus to be much more effective in the future. (At the United Nations in New York, Dr. Jarring, who returned here late yesterday, spoke with Secretary General Thant then and again this morning, and prepared to resume separate conferences with the Egyptian, Jordanian and Israeli ambassadors. Some observers emphasized that these conferences in the preceding 24 hours he had said his consultations in Jerusalem over the weekend had been useful and constructive.)

B'nai B'rith Approves Three Percent Budget Cut; Assails JDL For Harassment Pledge

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The B'nai B'rith Board of Governors approved today a 1971 budget of \$16.7 million--a 3 percent drop from last year's record \$17.25 million. It was the first time in several decades that the organization had decreased its budget. The 1971 budget, however, equals last year's actual expenditures, there having been a 7.5 percent midyear scissoring of some programs and administrative activities because of the economic recession, cost inflation, and emergency campaigns for the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds. Of the 1971 budget, 41 percent--or \$6.85 million--was allotted for the organization's three special youth programs--the B'nai B'rith Youth Organizations, the B'nai B'rith Vocational Service and the Hillel Clubs. The 1970 budget allotted 43 percent--or \$7.42 million--for the youth programs, but because of the midyear cuts only around \$6.85 million was actually spent. B'nai B'rith president William A. Wexler explained today that "The cutback enabled us to squeeze through the past year without a deficit," and was "a prudent approach to current uncertainties and to avoid deficit financing." It means, he added, "holding the line for a while, notwithstanding the needs and pressures for expanded programing, until, in accord with our long-range prospects, the financial picture improves." In another move, the board launched a drive to raise \$1 million from 200 major contributors for a fund in honor of Dr. Wexler, who will leave the presidency at year's end.

The B'nai B'rith board, reacting to the Jewish Defense League's pledge yesterday to "follow, question and harass" Soviet personnel in New York, adopted a resolution terming this a "morally reprehensible and politically self-defeating" decision that "endangers the cause of Soviet Jewry." Such "lunatic-fringe action of an unrepresentative, notorious, seeking group" will give the Kremlin a "pretext for its own misdemeanors," the board charged. It called again for "peaceful dissent" to the Soviet policies of "discrimination and repression" against the country's Jews. The Jewish leaders also called on President Nixon and Congress to "consider" approving a Lend Lease aid program between the United States and Israel--a proposal advanced several weeks ago by former Ambassador W. Averell Harriman--and urged United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring to help effect an extension of the Middle East truce. The board received yesterday a study, prepared by Joshua Rothenberg of Brandeis University, that concludes that Soviet Jews were better off in the days of the Czars than they are today. Rothenberg, a specialist in East European Jewish Affairs, said Soviet Jews in Czarist days had "four fundamental freedoms of religious activity"--the freedom to worship in a synagogue, practice religious rites, foster religious education and publish religious material. Those conditions no longer exist, he observed.

Israel Prepares Welcome Mat For Soviet Jew Who Will Become Three-Millionth Citizen

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Israeli dignitaries will be at Lydda Airport tonight to greet the nation's three-millionth citizen--Nathan Therolinkov, an immigrant from the Soviet Union who is due here on a flight from Vienna. Therolinkov, an engineer, is coming with his wife and daughter. Absorption Minister Nathan Peled will personally present the newcomers with their official identity cards. Later they will be received by Premier Golda Meir. The advance announcement of the ceremonial welcome marked

a departure from past practice when the arrival of Jews from the Soviet Union was treated with restraint. The welcome planned for the Therolinkov family is regarded as a demonstrative gesture on behalf of Russian Jews who want to go to Israel but cannot obtain exit visas. There was no indication from any sources why Therolinkov, a professional and apparently a young man, was permitted to leave while other Russian Jews are denied emigration rights. New immigrants are automatically granted Israeli citizenship on arrival. The official listing of Therolinkov as the three-millionth Israeli is based on year-end statistics which showed that as of Dec. 31, 1970 Israel's population fell only 2000 short of the three million mark.

Re-enforced Patrols Maintain Tight Security in Gaza; General Strike Hits Area

TEL AVIV, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Re-enforced Israeli patrols continued to maintain a tight security watch in Gaza today in the aftermath of a general strike and grenade attacks that killed one Arab and wounded a dozen others since Saturday. The strike, which shut down schools and shops and halted public transportation, was called to mourn the death of three terrorists killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol Saturday morning. Israeli authorities said the grenade assaults were intended to intimidate local Arabs who were not observing the strike. A large area of the northern Gaza Strip has been under curfew since Jan. 2 when two Israeli children were killed in a grenade attack on a private car. Forty Arab school girls from Jerusalem had a narrow escape on a visit to Nablus yesterday when a hand grenade that landed in their midst failed to explode. Police imposed a partial curfew on the area after they defused the grenade.

Report Israel Quietly Receiving Military Spare Parts From France

PARIS, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Israel is quietly receiving military spare parts from France, although the embargo laid down by the late President Charles deGaulle is still in effect, according to the French weekly *Nouvelle Observateur*. The magazine cited this report as further evidence that Franco-Israeli relations have improved considerably in the last few months. It said that spare parts were being sent to Tel Aviv "discreetly, just as they were before the Cherbourg Affair." The "Cherbourg Affair" occurred on Christmas Day, 1969, when five unarmed gunboats built for Israel in France but under embargo, were spirited away from Cherbourg by Israeli crews. The incident aroused the French government's anger and reportedly led to a tightening of the arms embargo against Israel which had been in effect since the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war. But Israeli circles here claimed today that the embargo on spare parts was enforced even before the gunboats left Cherbourg. They had no comment on the report that spare parts were now being delivered to Israel.

Freeze Plans For Rebuilding Old Jerusalem; Kollek Rejects Satellite City

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The Jerusalem City Council decided after a heated debate last night to freeze plans for rebuilding the Old City and its approaches. The action was taken after plans for the project were severely criticized by a consulting group of foreign architects and landscape designers. They claimed that the plans which had already been approved by the Municipality made inadequate provisions for transportation, clashed with the fundamental nature of the Old City's architecture and lacked a central theme. Several members of the City Council concurred in the criticism. A new set of plans will be submitted for review to a group of foreign and Israeli specialists. The American architect, Louis Kahn, has been asked to draw plans for the northern slope of Government House, facing the Old City. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem told the City Council last night that he opposed a decision made at a high government level to build a satellite city just outside of the Jerusalem municipal boundaries. Kollek said this would be a suburb of Jerusalem but outside of Jerusalem's control.

WJC Congress Challenges Vergelis' Statement On Soviet Jewry

GENEVA, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The World Jewish Congress has challenged the assertion made here last week by Aaron Vergelis, editor of Sovietish Heimland, the official Yiddish magazine in the Soviet Union, that Soviet anti-Semitism was no worse than anti-Semitism anywhere else. "A few tame, paid, intimidated and frightened Jews were sent abroad to cover up the actions taken by the Soviet authorities against the Jewish population of some 3 million," the WJC said here. "Tens of thousands have asked to leave the Soviet Union to join their kofolk in Israel and elsewhere," the WJC continued, accusing the Kremlin of breaking Premier Alexei N. Kosygin's contention four years ago that the USSR permitted free emigration. Vergelis had said that anti-Semitism existed in the USSR "as it does anywhere in the world where Jews live," and that an estimated 1,000 Soviet Jews who had left for Israel in 1970. He also said the 25,000 circulation of his monthly magazine indicated that there was dissemination of Jewish culture in the USSR. (In New York, Jerry Goodman of the American Jewish Committee said the publication of Sovietish Heimland was "an answer but not the answer," as it is only one magazine and besides, many of its 25,000 copies are sent out of the country. The magazine was "welcome," he said, but it's only a partial answer, a token.)

Soviet Invitation To Jewish Lawyer To Attend Future Trials Termed Propaganda Ploy

PARIS, Jan. 11 (JTA)--A French Jewish lawyer said today that he has been granted permission by Soviet authorities to attend any future trials in which Russian Jews are implicated. Andre Blumel made that statement upon his return from a private visit to Moscow. But Jewish circles here immediately sought to discredit him by pointing out that Blumel, once a Jewish and Zionist leader, is now known for his close connections with pro-Kremlin circles in the French Communist Party. Blumel said the Soviet authorities agreed to assign a Russian jurist to assist him at future trials and interpret Soviet law. Jewish circles here claimed that the alleged invitation was a move in the Russian propaganda campaign to try to prove the "fairness and justice" of the trials such as the recent one in Leningrad.

Population Of Israeli-Occupied Territories Increased By 15,500 In 1970

JERUSALEM, Jan. 11 (JTA)--The population of Israeli-occupied territories increased by 15,500 in 1970 compared to 1969, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. The population of Judaea and Samaria--the West Bank--was 608,000 at the end of 1970, 8500 more than at the end of 1969. In the Gaza Strip and northern Sinai, the population at the end of 1970 was 300,072, 7000 more than in 1969.

Jewish Leaders Denounce Attacks Against Soviet Offices; Lindsay Calls For Police Alert

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--Three Jewish leaders have expressed to President Nixon "the revulsion with which we and the overwhelming majority of American Jews view the recent attacks against Soviet offices in this country ostensibly in protest against Soviet anti-Semitism." Max M. Fisher, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; 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, cabled Nixon today to "denounce this strategy of terror and the men who are guilty of it" and to "reiterate our determination to create a climate of international opinion that will cause the rulers of the Soviet Union to free those millions of Jews for whom the USSR has become a prison."

Meanwhile, Mayor John V. Lindsay, in a sharp statement issued late this afternoon, announced that he has "directed the New York City Police Department to be as alert and forceful as is necessary" to deal with the "threat of the Jewish Defense League to harass foreign diplomats" here. Warning that the JDL tactics "is inimical to the vital cause of freedom for Jews persecuted in the Soviet Union," Lindsay declared that "by taking the law into their own hands, this small, extremist group challenges the rule of law and principles of freedom everywhere."

The three leaders, who conferred privately with Nixon last month in Washington, D.C., on the question of the harsh sentences imposed on nine Jews and two non-Jews in Leningrad, told him today that "we know of your compassionate understanding of the plight of this community of 3.5 million men, women and children who cannot leave and cannot live as Jews." They advised him that the "reckless and dangerous...outrageous, cowardly" acts against Soviet installations in the United States are "imperiling the cause of Soviet Jewry," and in addition "do malicious harm" to the aspirations of Soviet Jews, "win sympathy" for the USSR and "jeopardize the very foundation of a free society that is based on the rule of law." Rabbi Schacter, Dr. Wexler and Fisher said they looked forward to Nixon's "continued sympathy and support."

Student Says Youth Trying To Change Jewish Community Are Committed To Jewishness

LONDON, Jan. 11 (JTA)--A student speaker at the dedication of the new B'nai B'rith Hillel House warned here last night that Jews should worry when Jewish students leave them alone, "not when they harass them and demand a change of attitude, habit and performance." Gerald Cromer, student director of the Hillel Foundation, spoke of the "counter-culture" he found in American society, "followed by a Jewish counter-culture within Jewish society." He said students were trying to change the Jewish community not because they reject their Jewishness but because they acknowledge it. Most speakers at the dedication, including Chief Rabbi Emanuel Jakobovits, Michael Fidler, chairman of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, devoted their remarks to the situation of Soviet Jewry. The dedication of the eight-story, \$1.2 million Hillel House took place in the evening. Many attending the ceremonies participated earlier in a demonstration march to the Soviet Embassy here in which an estimated 12,000 persons, many of them non-Jews took part. A delegation delivered a petition on behalf of Soviet Jews. It was received by the Embassy First Secretary in the Ambassador's absence. He promised to convey it to the Ambassador for forwarding to Moscow. Harman said that "Russia failed to solve the Jewish problem, and that 53 years after the Revolution Russian Jews are in search of their Jewish identity. Our campaign is not an anti-Soviet campaign but a campaign for the right of Soviet Jews to their Jewish identity."

Orthodox Youth Group Says Russian Jewry Harmed By Provocative, Arrogant Actions

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (JTA)--An Orthodox youth group, the Zeret Agudat Israel of America, issued an "open letter to Jewish youth on Russian Jewry" citing the opposition of Orthodox religious authorities to demonstrations on behalf of Soviet Jews. The open letter referred to a meeting last month of the Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah--the Supreme Council of Torah Authorities--which held that "Every manifestation concerning Russian Jewry which is provocative and arrogant is a highly dangerous act which can harm many." The Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah was established 50 years ago. It consists of elder yeshiva heads and Hassidic rebbes whose leadership is recognized by Orthodox Jews in all matters. The Zeret Agudat Israel, which considers itself bound by the decisions of the Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah, stated in their open letter that "there were those who came up with instant answers to this complex problem which includes the fate of millions of Jews." The letter continued, "History has taught us a profound lesson, that whenever Jews have acted irrationally, without the guidance of the Torah and its authorities, their actions brought dire consequences. Now too, various Jewish groups have appealed to the emotions of the Jewish masses without fully weighing the potential dangers to the Jews still residing in Russia. We feel it is our duty and obligation to present a deeper insight into this problem, as well as on the recent decision made by the Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah."

While eschewing demonstrations, the Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah and the Rabbinical Advisory Board of Torah Umesorah, the national association of Hebrew day schools, held a prayer meeting for Russian Jewry at New York's Manhattan Center yesterday attended by an estimated 13,000 persons--some 5000 in the hall and an estimated 8000 in the street. A spokesman for the sponsoring groups said "the prevailing atmosphere was one of stark simplicity, reverence and respect." The only sign decorating the hall was a quotation from the 20th Psalm--"God save us. May the King answer us on the day when we call." In spite of the record-breaking through the entire meeting was in keeping, the spokesman said, with the admonition of the Moetzes Gedolei Hatorah to avoid "provocative and arrogant acts...which can only harm many" in the Soviet Union. A proclamation read during the meeting declared to the Jews of Russia: "You are not alone. The Guardian of Israel watches you and protects you. Our hearts beat as one for you and with you till your freedom is assured to live fully as Jews." The proclamation also prayed to the Almighty that "He incline the minds of the rulers of Soviet Russia toward a policy of benevolence as they judge the situation of our brethren." A spokesman for Agudat Israel said there was no cry of "Never again," the slogan of the Jewish Defense League, as reported earlier. "When someone at one point shouted 'am Yisroel chai', he was simply ignored and it did not even cause a ripple," the spokesman stated.

