

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Refugee Syrian Jews, in Paris, Call Syria 'Inferno' For Remaining Jews

PARIS, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Two Syrian Jews who recently managed to escape from Syria, appeared here today in heavy disguise at a press conference to describe Syria as "an inferno" for the 5,000 Jews still living there. The press conference was sponsored by the International Committee for the Defense of the Jews in the Middle East. Officials said the man and the woman put on disguises to protect members of their families still resident in Syria. They declared that Syria's Jews live in daily fear for such little freedom as they have and under severe discrimination. They reported that Jews in Damascus, where 3,000 live, may not leave for more than two miles out of the city without permission from the secret police but that most of them never leave the Jewish area where they try to eke out a living from artisan shops.

They cited a law forbidding Jews from leaving to their heirs real estate or other property which is automatically declared by the authorities to be intestate and automatically passed on to Palestinian terrorist organizations. Jews are forbidden to hold religious services without prior permission from the secret police. During such services, they said, a government official is usually present. If a Jew does manage to flee the country, they said, all of his or her known relatives and friends are routinely arrested, usually for a minimum period of two months. The male witness said he had been arrested after the escape of a brother and that he had been detained for ten months before he was court-martialed on charges of "Zionist activities." He was sentenced to death but later came under a general amnesty. He described conditions in Syrian prisons as "inhuman," declaring that prisoners are regularly beaten and given electric shock tortures. He said many went insane from the mistreatment.

Presiding at the press conference were Alain Poher, president of the French Senate, and president of the international committee; M. Rolland, president of the French Supreme Criminal Court, and Jacques Mercier, the French attorney who had tried to defend the reputed Israeli agent, Elie Cohen, in Damascus. The two witnesses also reported that the situation in Egypt for Jews had improved during the past year and credited the improvement to efforts by the French government. They said many Jews who had been arrested had been freed from prison and allowed to leave Egypt. They called the situation for Jews in Iraq "stagnant," adding that while Jews there no longer feared for their lives as they did a year ago at the time of public hangings of Iraqi Jews, they still suffered several restrictions and discrimination. A similar report, in less detail, was issued in New York yesterday by Gen. Lucius D. Clay, chairman of the Committee of Concern.

## State Dept. Warns Against Disruption Of Soviet Show in NYC Tonight

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA)--The State Department said today that, having consulted with the Lindsay Administration in New York City, it would take "all possible measures" to prevent disruption of the performances of the Siberian Dancers and Singers of Omsk, who begin a 12-show run at New York's Carnegie Hall tomorrow night. In a voluntary verbal statement to newsmen, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said the government would be on guard against the "irresponsible elements which previously committed misdemeanors and acts of violence against Soviet activities, installations and personnel." McCloskey declined to mention any specific groups. He added that "We again condemn and deplore such activities, which are contrary to the basic tenets of American hospitality, and any harm brought to our relations (with the Soviet Union) by those irresponsible elements." McCloskey said he was announcing governmental presence at Carnegie Hall "in the hope that these groups won't be tantalized to disrupt these performances." The Siberian troupe's appearances, its first in the United States, are being advertised as "an official presentation under the U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. cultural exchange agreement."

Lawrence Fine, executive director of the Jewish Defense League, which has denied complicity in previous anti-Soviet violence but has endorsed it, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York today that the JDL had decided not to stage demonstrations at Carnegie Hall, but that individual members were on their own. He said JDL was deferring to the demonstration plans of Student Activists for Soviet Jewry, a Brooklyn-based collegiate group formed in December that claims the support of 750-800 persons. Yossi Templeman, a student at the City University Graduate School and chairman of the student group, told the JTA that the group had been formed as a "compromise" between the JDL and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, which opposes physical harassment. Templeman, who was making temporary use of the JDL office telephones, estimated that 10 percent of his supporters were also JDL members. He called Student Activists a "non-violent group" that was nonetheless willing to engage in actions "which may seem to be of questionable legality." He declined to specify what actions his activists would take tomorrow night other than to picket and to distribute leaflets bearing the slogan "A Time to Do" and urging passersby not to enter Carnegie Hall. Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the SSSJ, told the JTA today that members of his group, including a person in a bear suit, would be outside the auditorium "yelling and screaming" for an end to Soviet anti-Semitism.)

McCloskey, noting that the USSR had last month canceled scheduled American appearances by the Bolshoi Ballet, said there had been peaceful picketing of the Omsk troupe at its recent pre-New York appearances in Storrs, Conn. He said there had also been peaceful picketing at the recent New York recital of violinist Leonid Kogan and at the recent Buffalo, N.Y. appearance of violinist Igor Oistrakh (although a stinkbomb was thrown during the former event.) Both artists are Soviet Jews. McCloskey said the only other Soviet performer in the U.S. at this time is pianist Grigory Sokolov, and that an upcoming appearance by cellist Mstislav Rostropovich had not been canceled. McCloskey added that the State Department remained unsatisfied with the extent of protection of American personnel in the USSR. He disclosed that another American, James Pipert of the Associated Press, had been roughed up in that country.

## Sapir Coming To U.S. To Discuss Israeli Bid For Another Credit Agreement

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir will arrive in the United States early next week for a fund-raising visit which will include meetings with Nixon Administration officials on an Israeli request for another \$500 million in military and economic aid credits, according to reports here and in Jerusalem. Mr. Sapir, who is also Minister of Commerce and Industry, was due Sunday or Monday.

Sources in Jerusalem said Premier Meir's Government had made the request to U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour. The first \$500 million credit has been completely committed for military and other purchases, it was reported. The request for the second aid credit package is for fiscal 1971-1972. Mr. Sapir was expected to discuss with Nixon Administration officials the conditions for the new credit package. Israel Bond officials in New York confirmed that the Israeli Cabinet member will aid the bond campaign during his stay in the United States. A State Department source declined today to comment on the new Israeli credit request, remarking only that the department "is continuing to study Israel's assistance needs."

## Tekoa Meets Jarring On Israeli Response To Egyptian Statement

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 27 (JTA)--Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoa met here today with United Nations Mideast emissary Gunnar Jarring. It was learned authoritatively that he planned to present Dr. Jarring with Israel's response to last week's Egyptian reply, delivered to Dr. Jarring on Jan. 18 and published on Jan. 20, to Israel's initial peace proposals transmitted earlier this month to the UN mediator in Jerusalem. However, it was reported also that the Israeli envoy did not plan to state Dr. Jarring's understanding of the Egyptian position on the Jordanian statement presented to the Swedish diplomat on Jan. 18 and released Monday. No statement or comment was issued at the end of the meeting today, in line with the "quiet diplomacy" approach of Dr. Jarring.

Tekoa met last night with Secretary General U Thant at the latter's invitation but it was understood that the Jarring talks were not discussed. Israeli spokesmen refused comment on either the nature of the Israeli envoy's presentation to Dr. Jarring or his conversation with the Secretary General. Another regular meeting of the ambassadors of the Big Four was scheduled for today but the envoys were, as usual in recent months, not expected to make any significant proposals about a Mideast settlement, in deference to the ongoing Jarring talks.

## Ousted Uganda Head's Charge Of Israeli Role In Coup Called 'Nonsense'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--The Foreign Ministry dismissed as "utter nonsense" last night a charge by deposed President Milton Obote, of Uganda that Israel was involved in the military coup that led to the overthrow of his regime. A Ministry spokesman stressed that "Israel never interferes in the internal affairs of other countries." The basis of Dr. Obote's charge apparently was the fact that one of the coup leaders, Gen. Idi Amin, took a parachuting course in Israel in 1963. The course was given within the framework of a technical aid program carried out by Israeli experts over the past ten years in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Israeli officers helped train Uganda military units. Jerusalem's relations with the East African nation have been extremely friendly and the coup is not expected to affect them.

## Legal Battle Starts In Israel Over Sale Of Catholic Hostel To JNF Unit

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--A legal battle has begun in Jerusalem over the sale of the Notre Dame Hostel by the Assumptionist Fathers to Hamenuta, a subsidiary of the Jewish National Fund. The Vatican, trying to prevent the sale, obtained an injunction last month which Hamenuta is attempting to overturn. The hearings that began in Jerusalem District Court were adjourned Friday and will resume on Feb. 5.

Notre Dame was built by the Assumptionist Fathers in 1887 to serve French pilgrims, but its importance has declined in recent years. The Assumptionists claim they have the right to dispose of the property. The Vatican claims that only the Pope has the authority to authorize its sale. The Holy See obtained a temporary injunction barring any alteration of the status quo at Notre Dame. It has also filed a separate motion asking that the transaction be annulled as a violation of canon law. The papers noted a discrepancy between the figure of \$600,000 cited in the land registry file as the price paid for the hostel and the \$815,000 which the Assumptionist Order was given permission by the Treasury to take out of the country. Hamenuta contends that the sale was legal. It plans to use the hostel for Hebrew University students.

## Tsukerman Arrives In Israel With Family; Sees Eventual Exodus By Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Boris Tsukerman, a Soviet Jewish scientist active in the struggle for emigration rights, arrived here tonight with his wife and two children to settle in Israel. He told newsmen that eventually, Jews will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union but "until then, the road will be difficult and slow and might require sacrifices." Tsukerman, who received his exit visa only three days before he left Moscow on Monday, said the trials of Russian Jews were not achieving their purpose. They are not sowing fear and confusion among Jews, he said. But, he added, the trials will continue. According to Tsukerman the struggle of Jews inside Russia is unorganized. "Each one is struggling along but is conscious of the support of many others," he said. Asked if he thought that demonstrations of support in Israel and other countries helped the cause of Soviet Jewry, he said he "could not judge" but did know that "these demonstrations are a source of encouragement to Soviet Jews."

## 200,000 New Homes Planned In Israel Over Next Five Years, Says Official

HAIFA, Jan. 27 (JTA)--More than 200,000 new homes will be built in Israel over the next five years at a cost of \$2.8 billion, Housing Minister Zeev Sharef told the Haifa Maritime and Economic Club. Sharef said the housing would be available for young couples and immigrants. He said 82,000 units will be built in the next two years, a sufficient number to house large families now living in slums or in homes too small for them.

## Jewish Groups Denounce Boycott Of Israel By Japanese Enterprises

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA)--The American Zionist Federation called on its members and on all Americans today to protest the alleged boycott of Israel by three major Japanese corporations. The enterprises cited in a resolution adopted by the AZF executive committee were Japan Airlines, Toyota and Nissan (Datsun). The latter two firms produce motor cars marketed in the United States. The three firms were charged with rejecting normal trade relations with Israel under pressure from the Arab League which blacklists all firms doing business with Israel. The AZF resolution said "We cannot allow these Japanese corporations to become accomplices in this attempt to carry the Middle East war into the realm of international trade."

In a related action, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith urged the United States Government not to grant Japan Airlines additional landing rights in this country as long as it continued its participation in the Arab boycott. Arnold Forster, the ADL's general counsel, said that "to ignore JAL's intransigent stand against Israel would be self-defeating in the light of American foreign policy interests and American opposition to boycotts against friendly states." He said the JAL has consistently refused to agree to a civil air treaty or mutual landing arrangements with Israel. Forster observed that the U.S. and Japan concluded agreements in 1969 which granted Japan major new routes between that country and New York and between Japan, Guam and Saipan. In addition, Japan Airlines has access to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu and Okinawa and is now pressing for landing rights at Chicago. To grant any additional routes to JAL "would be giving tacit support of the Japanese boycott against Israel," Forster said. According to Forster, JAL cannot be separated from the Japanese Government because of the latter's controlling interest in the airline.

## Knesset Unit Bars Major Increases To Owners Of Rent-Controlled Buildings

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--A Knesset committee today rejected a Government-sponsored draft bill that would have allowed the owners of controlled buildings a major rent increase. It raised the rent ceiling but only by half the amount granted in the Government measure. Rent control has been in effect since it was imposed by the Mandatory Government during World War II. It was continued by the Israel Government to cope with the severe post-war housing shortage, a problem that persists in certain areas. Rent control applies only to dwelling units built before the war. Rents have been raised periodically with Government permission, but landlords complain that they are still too low to yield a fair return. As a result, many of them have allowed their property to fall into disrepair. The new rent ceiling is intended to improve the landlords' return. Its passage by the Knesset is virtually assured.

## Two Arab Saboteurs Killed In Golan Heights Clash; Explosives Found In Haifa

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Two Arab saboteurs were killed last night in a clash with an Israeli patrol on the Golan Heights. There were no Israeli casualties. The encounter occurred about 200 yards west of the Israel-Syria demarcation line. Arms and explosives were found on the bodies of the slain men. Several arrests were made in Haifa last night after a police sergeant discovered a parcel containing explosives in a local movie house. The suspects were all released after questioning.

## ISRAEL BRIEFS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Dr. Michael Jacob Hazani, an Orthodox rabbi and Minister of Social Welfare representing the National Religious Party, emphatically opposed last night a suggestion in the Knesset that prostitutes in Israel be supervised by the police and medical authorities. The suggestion was made by Mrs. Shoshana Arbeli-Almoslino of the Labor Party, who said that prostitution could not be eliminated and should at least be controlled. Dr. Hazani, declaring that "a Jewish State will never legalize prostitution," recommended stringent legal, economic and social efforts against the activity. Israeli law does not expressly permit or forbid prostitution. Only maintaining brothels and procuring are specifically barred.

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Israeli wage earners will receive a two percent pay boost this year under a draft agreement between Histadrut, the trade union federation, and the Israel Manufacturers Association. The agreement was approved today by Histadrut's trade union department. The raise will be retroactive to the first of the year. The agreement also calls for an increased cost-of-living allowance to be determined by a committee on the basis of the consumer price level of Jan. 16, 1971.

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--The Agriculture Ministry announced today that it would curtail the import of frozen beef which has been running currently at the rate of 30,000 tons a year in order to conserve foreign currency. The Ministry said the measure was required because of the rise in the price of beef on the world market from \$550 to \$900 a ton. In place of beef, the Ministry said it will promote the expansion of chicken and turkey breeding. Israel presently consumes about 45,000 tons of beef annually, 30,000 tons of which is imported. The consumption of poultry has been much higher in recent years.

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JERUSALEM, Jan. 27 (JTA)--The members of the Knesset voted themselves a salary increase of \$57 a month last night, raising their pay from just over \$271 a month to nearly \$429, plus expenses. Knesset members will now be paid at a rate of 70 percent of a Cabinet minister's salary, compared with the previous rate of 60 percent.

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TEL AVIV, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Agriculture Minister Chaim Gvati left for Rumania yesterday at the head of a six-man delegation to discuss trade relations between Israel and Rumania. One item on their agenda is to conclude five year commercial agreements in place of past agreements that have a duration of only three years.

## PEARL Coalition Challenges Cardinal Cooke On State Aid To Private Schools

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Terrance Cardinal Cooke, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, was challenged today on his bid for "substantial" State aid to private and parochial schools. The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL), a coalition of 29 organizations opposed to State aid, urged the New York State Legislature to reject "all bills aimed at giving public funds to non-public schools." William Haddad, co-chairman of PEARL, warned at a press conference today that State aid to private and parochial schools, no matter what form it took, would result in the proliferation of private schools "segregating pupils by religion and by income as well as by race" while the public schools face "starvation budgets" and the cities "near bankruptcy."

Cardinal Cooke, in a letter to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller Monday, did not specify the type or the amount of aid for non-public schools. But he insisted that it was needed to meet "the great economic plight of non-public education." The Flynn-Lerner bill, introduced recently in the State Legislature, would provide cash payments of up to \$250 per child to parochial school parents. Proponents of State aid have in the past urged repeal of Art. XI, Sect. 3 of the State Constitution--the so-called Blaine Amendment--which bars State aid to parochial schools on the basis of separation of church and state. Cardinal Cooke said in his letter to Gov. Rockefeller that repeal of Blaine was not "a matter of urgency." He thereby publicly acknowledged a shift in Catholic strategy. Haddad said today that the drive for repeal of the Blaine Amendment has been abandoned by the parochial-aid forces because they realize that if the issue is placed on the ballot, "voters would overwhelmingly vote 'no'."

The 1970 Legislature passed a resolution to repeal the Blaine Amendment. But it requires a second passage and then must be submitted to voters in a referendum next fall. Spokesmen for PEARL say it is sure to be defeated just as New York voters rejected the proposed new State Constitution in 1967 which would have eliminated the Blaine Amendment. Haddad said that instead of pushing for repeal of Blaine, the pro-aid forces are engaged in "an all-out campaign to distribute untold millions of dollars of public funds to parochial schools, as if the strict constitutional prohibition against such aid were not there at all." He charged that "State support of sectarian education poses a grave threat to religious freedom, to church-state separation and to public education."

The constituents of PEARL include the American Jewish Congress, Citizens Union, Council of Churches of the City of New York, New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee, the New York Civil Liberties Union, Public Education Association, United Federation of Teachers, the United Parents Association and 21 other groups. In the Jewish community, the chief supporters of State aid are the Orthodox organizations. Haddad warned that a law giving public monies to private and parochial schools would "signal the beginning of the end of public education in this state and perhaps in the nation as well." He said hundreds of religious, political and private schools "would spring up, each picking and choosing among its students, segregating pupils by religion and by income as well as by race. In the face of the public schools' starvation budgets and the near-bankruptcy of the cities, the demand on the Legislature to find new money for parents who chose to send children for private and religious education is unthinkable," he asserted.

## Lindsay Signs Bill To Ease Parking Restrictions For Day School Busses

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA)--A bill allowing school busses unlimited parking in front of school buildings--a measure requested by various Jewish religious day schools in New York City--was signed by Mayor John V. Lindsay yesterday. The bill, an amendment to existing traffic regulations, permits busses owned or hired by public and non-public schools to park in front of the schools overnight and during the day. It benefits principally yeshivas and other Jewish day schools in congested areas which depend on their own busses to transport their pupils. The schools have no garage or parking lots and as a result have received tickets for parking violations which drain their finances.

Mayor Lindsay's action was the result of requests from Torah Umesorah, the National Society of Hebrew Days Schools; Agudat Israel of America and several yeshivas. The measure was opposed by several city agencies. Mayor Lindsay said, "I have given serious consideration to the arguments presented by those who are in favor of and opposed to this legislation. My decision to sign the bill... is based on my belief that it serves an important need of the schools of our city." Dr. Marvin Schick, special deputy assistant to the Mayor, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the opposition came mainly from the Traffic Dept., which feared that the parked busses would create added congestion. He said the Police Dept. was also opposed because it thought the measure would create confusion as to where parking was permitted.

## Group Of 63 Students Leaves For Second Annual Semester In Israel Program

NEW YORK, Jan. 27 (JTA)--A group of 63 college students from all over the United States left for Israel today to participate in the second annual Semester in Israel program, sponsored by Tel Aviv University and the American Zionist Youth Foundation in cooperation with the Hebrew department of the University of Maryland. The program allows students to complete their regular undergraduate programs within the normal period while studying in Israel. Knowledge of Hebrew is not a prerequisite for participation. Courses offered in Israel include Jewish history, Bible study, archaeology, Israeli politics and sociology, all taught in English by Tel Aviv University faculty.

## Prof. Feigl, Head Of Brazil Jewish Federation Dies; Was 79

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 27 (JTA)--Prof. Fritz Feigl, an eminent bio-chemist and president of Brazil's Jewish Community Federation, died here yesterday at the age of 79. Prof. Feigl was born in Vienna and came to Brazil in 1940. He was the author of 600 works in his field and held more than two dozen medals, awards and honorary memberships from scientific institutions in 14 countries. Among the latter were the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth and the Vatican Academy of Science.