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Jewish Woman In Riga Reports Seven Or Eight Jewish Families Receive Exit Permits

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (JTA)--A Jewish woman in Riga reported today that "seven or eight" Jewish families in the Soviet Latvian capital have received exit permits and that others have been told by Soviet authorities that they would be issued exit visas when peace was restored in the Middle East. The woman, Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, was contacted by telephone by Kol Israel radio. She is the mother of Ruth Aleksandrovich, one of five Riga Jews under arrest and reportedly awaiting trial on charges of alleged anti-Soviet activities. Mrs. Aleksandrovich denied rumors current in Israel that 40 Jewish families in Riga received exit permits. She confirmed that Maj. Grisha Feigin, a former Soviet Jewish Army officer who was released from a mental institution last month, is preparing to leave shortly for Israel. Feigin received an exit permit last week, according to word received by friends in Israel. Mrs. Aleksandrovich said he has turned his flat over to the authorities and is now visiting friends to say goodby. He is expected to go to Moscow in two days to board a plane for Vienna enroute to Israel. Feigin was incarcerated briefly in a mental institution after returning his World War II combat medals in a gesture of protest against Soviet anti-Jewish policies.

Jackson To Israel, U.S., Reject Egypt's Proposal To Reopen Canal; Bayn Also Scores Plan

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson warned both Israel and the United States today to reject unequivocally Egypt's latest offer to re-open the Suez Canal if Israel withdraws from the east bank of the waterway. Addressing the B'nai B'rith Israel Bonds inaugural dinner here, the Washington Democrat alleged that compliance with the proposal by Egypt's President Anwar Sadat would deprive Israel of its "trump card" in future peace negotiations with Egypt and would serve Soviet, not American, strategic interests. Sen. Jackson described the Egyptian proposal as a "high priority objective for the Soviets to increase the effectiveness of the Russian Navy and merchant fleet" and "gain control over the oil supply on which our Western European and Japanese allies are totally dependent." Jackson claimed that to permit the reopening of the Canal at this stage of the negotiations under United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring "would run counter to American interests." "This is a time," he said, "to stand firm and resist the temptation to make unwise concessions." He described the Canal as a "trump card" in any forthcoming settlement of the Israel-Arab dispute. "Agreement on this point should be withheld until a settlement of the fundamental issues is reached," Jackson maintained. "With the Canal back in operation, one of the chief incentives the Soviets have to make concessions on other outstanding differences will vanish," he said.

Jackson accused the Soviet Union of nurturing within the Arabs "the distant hope that Israel will one day be destroyed." He also lashed out at the Nixon administration's Middle East policy which, he charged was "marked by uncertainty and vacillation." "We should be speaking to the Soviets with the utmost clarity about the Middle East," Jackson said. Alleging administration failure to propose an adequate level of military credit for Israel in its new 1971-72 budget, Jackson said, "The truth is that the strongest U.S. policy statement in support of Israel's policy has come not from the White House or the State Department but from the Congress, by adoption of my amendment to the Defense Procurement Act of 1970." His amendment led to a U.S. line on credit of \$500 million to Israel for military procurement over a two year period. Jackson blamed "faulty judgment" for what he described as "U.S. inaction" when "the Soviets and Egyptians violated the Mideast military stance last August."

He asserted that "We have often acted on the superficial assumption that because the Soviets do not want all-out war in the Middle East, they must desire all-out peace. When we come to appreciate that between the desire to avert war and the desire for peace there is an enormous range of Soviet policy objectives, we shall have undertaken a first step in designing an effective Middle East policy." The "unhappy truth" is that the Soviets, far from urging the radical Arab states to make peace with Israel, are "determined to keep tensions high and to nurture the distant hope that Israel will one day be destroyed," he said. (The latest proposal by Sadat was also assailed last night as "nothing but a propaganda exercise" by Sen. Birch Bayh. The Indiana Democrat arrived in Tel Aviv yesterday as the guest of the Foreign Ministry and Haifa Technion for what is described as a "fact finding" tour. He is scheduled to meet Technion students tomorrow for an evening of "Questions and Answers." Bayh's itinerary includes visits to various parts of the country and meetings with Israeli leaders.)

Israel Seen Giving Serious Consideration To Sadat Proposal To Reopen Suez Canal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The Israel government is believed to be giving serious consideration to a proposal by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal on the basis of a partial withdrawal of Israeli forces from its east bank. Israel's position is expected to be stated by Premier Golda Meir on Tuesday in the course of a political report to the Knesset. Her Knesset speech was announced following today's Cabinet meeting at which Foreign Minister Abba Eban reportedly presented a detailed analysis of the statement Sadat made to the Egyptian National Assembly last Thursday. Sadat said he would extend the expiring cease-fire agreement another 30 days--to Mar. 7--and that any further extension would depend on an Israeli timetable for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. He also proposed reopening the Suez Canal if Israel withdrew from its east bank. Israel's reply to Sadat is expected to consist of a series of questions to clarify the Egyptian leader's intent. Several Cabinet ministers intimated today that it would be worth while at least to explore the Egyptian proposal and some of the major questions arising from it. They said, for example, Israel wants to know what Sadat means by partial withdrawal--whether 100 miles or 100 yards; whether Egypt would agree to the de-

militarization of any area evacuated by Israel; and whether the waterway could be used by Israeli shipping once it is reopened. Informed sources said that an evacuation of Israeli forces 100 yards from the Canal's banks might be acceptable. It should enable Sadat to reopen the Canal without losing face while Israel would still retain effective military control over it. They made it clear that Israel would not tolerate an Egyptian entry into the evacuated zone.

Although warning voices were raised in the press and elsewhere against the Sadat offer, there were several indications today that the government has not dismissed it out of hand. One was the scheduling of a formal political statement by Mrs. Meir for Tuesday and postponement of a scheduled Eban press conference until after Mrs. Meir has spoken. Another indication was cancellation of the usual press briefing by the government secretary after today's Cabinet meeting. In addition, the chairman of the Knesset's powerful Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee, Chaim Tzadok, declared today that President Sadat's proposal "should not be rejected out of hand." Diplomatic circles meanwhile stressed that there was no substance to a report broadcast yesterday by the government-owned but independent Kol Israel radio that Israel had totally rejected Sadat's proposal. Diplomatic circles told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the erroneous report stemmed from a misinterpretation of certain remarks by government leaders by the Kol Israel news editor. They said no official denial was made because that would only have added to the confusion. Observers here noted that Sadat's proposal to reopen the Canal was in many ways similar to a suggestion made in Israeli circles several months ago and attributed to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. The proposal was "leaked" at a time when Premier Meir was visiting the United States and created a furor in the Cabinet. Dayan later disassociated himself from it. The plan would have had both Israel and Egypt pull back from the Canal with a demilitarized zone between them, permitting the waterway to be reopened for commercial shipping.

Gallil, Peres Urge Caution On Sadat Plan; Beigin Warns Plan Is Effort To Cross Canal

As matters stand now, neither Israel nor Egypt can move to reopen the Canal without the other's agreement. Israel has made offers several times in the past to permit Egypt to clear the waterway on condition that its shipping would enjoy the same navigation rights as the shipping of all other nations. The Egyptian position up to now has been that the Canal can be reopened only on condition that Israel withdraws completely from the Sinai peninsula. Sadat's proposal for a partial Israeli withdrawal has introduced a new element, circles here said. The Labor newspaper Davar said today that it was important for Israel to counteract the impression of apparent moderation on Sadat's part. Nevertheless, the paper said, "because of its intrinsic desire for peace, the Israeli government will obviously have to examine the latest Egyptian proposal very carefully to discover whether it does possibly contain any prospect for a settlement. Haaretz doubted the wisdom of accepting Sadat's proposal. "There would be no reason for the Egyptians to agree to an Israeli idea that the border can be drawn by dividing the Sinai from north to south, once Israel abandons its position along the Canal," Haaretz said. Two influential Cabinet ministers appeared to be less than enthusiastic over the Sadat proposal. Minister Without Portfolio Israel Gallil provided the initiative for a resolution adopted unanimously at the convention of Hakibbutz Hameuchad, the kibbutz movement of the Achdut Avodah Labor faction, which warned that Sadat's speech contained the seeds of a new war.

Transport Minister Shimon Peres told the Civilian Emergency Transportation Committee last night that Israel must beware of attempts to force it into anything less than a contractual peace agreement with Egypt. Peres said such a development would mean another war. He said he preferred the current situation to any unsigned, informal agreement because "now at least we know where we stand." Menachem Beigin, leader of the opposition Gahal faction, said in a radio interview today that Sadat's plan was "an attempt to cross the Canal without really trying." Beigin warned that Israel "must make sure he will not succeed." Histadrut's secretary general Itzhak Ben Aharon took a softer view. He felt that Sadat's agreement to another cease-fire extension offered a chance to begin a dialogue with Egypt. Maj. Gen. Yehyahu Gavish, former commander of Israel's southern front, said in an interview published in the newspaper Maariv that a renewal of fighting by Egypt in the Canal zone would be over very quickly and would end in disaster for Egypt. Gen. Gavish doubted that the Russians would intervene actively on Egypt's side. He said any Egyptian units that succeeded in crossing the Canal would never get back. He thought, however, that a new war with Egypt would be followed by "a very long armistice."

Hadassah Issues Call For End Of Soviet Anti-Semitism, Right Of Jews To Emigrate

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA)—A call was issued here last night for the end of Soviet anti-Semitism and the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel if they so desire. The demand was made at the opening session of the Hadassah Mid-Winter Conference which is being held here for the first time in Hadassah history. Addressing the 150 delegates, Mrs. Max Schenk, national president of Hadassah, declared: "We insist on the rights of Jews everywhere to live in freedom. In particular, we think of our brethren in Soviet Russia suffering under a cruel dictatorship." At the same time, it was announced that a new community college built by Hadassah in Israel will be officially opened here tomorrow in the presence of Hadassah national board members by Deputy Minister of Education Asher Yadin.

The community college is intended to train technicians and practical engineers who need an education beyond high school level, but do not require a full university program. The college presently houses four departments: computer technology, scientific photography, laboratory technology and medical records librarianship. Two hundred and fifty students are already reportedly attending the school. Speaking at the opening session, Mrs. Schenk told the delegates: "We derive from Israel much more than we bring to it. Through our efforts for this land and its people we are strengthened spiritually and morally. We are enriched culturally and as human beings. We are fortified in our battle against all those dissenting and opposing forces that rear their heads in this age of dissent and opposition." Three hundred and fifty more delegates are expected to arrive here on Tuesday.

Mobil Co. Apologizes For Boycott Of Israeli, Jewish Products, But Will Continue

LONDON, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The Mobil Shipping Co. has apologized for the contents of a letter barring from its ships "products of Israeli origin or appearing to be of Jewish or Israeli origin." But the tanker-operating firm, a British subsidiary of the Mobil Oil Corp., made it clear that it will continue to keep such products off its vessels calling at Arab ports. The Mobil letter which went out to ship chandlers in Britain, created a furor in Jewish circles. Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and a Conservative MP, threatened to bring it up in Parliament. "I am shocked," Fidler said today, "that a firm of Mobil's standing has succumbed to the boycott. It is most reprehensible and I will ask the government to make it clear that no British firms should be influenced by threats of retaliation and boycott."

Fidler was reacting to a statement by a Mobil spokesman apologizing for "excessive zeal" in reminding ship chandlers of the Arab boycott of Israel. Mobil tankers with Israeli products among their supplies faced blacklisting and fines at Libyan and other Arab ports. The letter also warned chandlers against supplying Mobil ships with certain brands of Swedish matches and Trinidad beer because the trade marks on the packages resembled the Star of David. The spokesman said, "the word Jewish is the offending one. People had every reason to be upset when they saw it (in the Mobil letter). It was stupid and ill-advised... (but) we had an obligation to obey the law of Libya and to make sure that oil supplies get to this country," he said. Maurice Orbach, an MP who directs the Trade Advisory Council, made up of Jewish businessmen, said today that "the fact that the word 'Jewish' has been deleted makes no difference. It is discrimination."

Occupied Territories No Longer Drain On Israeli Economy; Unemployment Reduced

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The Arab territories that Israel has occupied since June, 1967, are almost beginning to pay for themselves. Instead of creating a drain on Israel's economy, they are bringing in substantial amounts of revenue and could show a profit in the not too distant future, according to official figures released here this week. Israel is expected to spend \$55.1 million to administer the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai during the next fiscal year which begins April 1. But she will collect \$46.1 million in taxes and oil revenues, the latter from Egyptian wells on the Sinai peninsula. This means that Israel will have to lay out only \$9 million of its own resources on the occupied territory--less than one fourth of one percent of its \$3.8 billion budget for fiscal 1971-72. The bulk of the revenue stems from taxes paid by the 1 million Arab inhabitants. Except for East Jerusalem, where the Israeli tax scale has been introduced, the inhabitants of the occupied territories pay no higher taxes than they did under Jordanian, Egyptian or Syrian rule before 1967. However, their income has been growing. According to figures published by the Bank of Israel, there has been a 12-16 percent annual rise in production in the occupied territories.

The occupied territories export less to Israel than they buy from it. But the trade deficit has narrowed from \$21.75 million in 1969 to \$11.6 million in 1970. About 60 percent of their exports is in the form of labor--Arabs who travel to Israel each day for jobs on which they are paid the same wage scale that Israeli workers receive. The Israeli job market has reduced unemployment on the West Bank from 5.8 percent in 1969 to 2.7 percent in 1970. The West Bankers enjoy a favorable trade balance with Jordan's east bank, via the Jordan River bridges. The figures show an important trend in the territories' economy in recent years has been its growing interrelationship with the economy of Israel. Israeli farming methods have been adopted to increase agricultural production. Israeli industry has subcontracted to firms in the occupied territories. Israel itself has become a market for furniture made in Gaza and candy from Nablus. The territories imported from Israel \$75.4 million last year, a ten percent increase over 1969 imports.

Report Soviet Police Abetting Attacks On Jews Or Refuse To Act Against Attackers

LONDON, Feb. 7 (JTA)--The Soviet police are collaborating in attacks on Soviet Jews or at least refusing to take action against the attackers, according to information reaching here from the USSR. A 33-year-old Soviet Jew named Pinhas Krugler, it was said, was severely beaten near his Moscow home on Jan. 26 by thugs who denounced him for applying to leave for Israel. Several similar cases have been reported by the dissident underground.

More Than 400 Jewish Leaders From 50 Countries in World Conference On Soviet Jewry

BRUSSELS, Feb. 7 (JTA)--More than 400 prominent Jewish leaders in 50 countries have indicated they will participate in the World Conference on Soviet Jewry, to be held here Feb. 23-26, according to a conference spokesman. Those expected to attend include United States Sens. Jacob K. Javits of New York and Abraham A. Ribicoff of Connecticut; Prof. Albert B. Sabin, president of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel; Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Israeli Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen; Gideon Hausner, Knesset member and prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann; Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi of Britain; Dr. Jacob Kaplan, the Chief Rabbi of France; Eva Violet, the Marchioness of Reading (England); Abraham Shlonsky of Tel Aviv, the noted Hebrew poet; Dr. Gershon Scholem, president of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and professor emeritus at the Hebrew University; writers Saul Bellow, Eli Wiesel, Manes Sperber and Andre Schwarz-Bart; and former Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion, who will deliver the closing address.

As reported earlier, the opening session will be addressed by Prof. Raymond Aron of the Sorbonne in Paris and by Arthur J. Goldberg, former U.S. Supreme Court Justice and former ambassador to the United Nations. The sponsors of the conference are the Jewish Agency, the World Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, the European Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Latin American Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Board of Deputies of British Jews. The British delegation will be headed by Michael M. Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies. The American delegation will number 130. Members of Parliament from various Western countries are also expected to participate.

