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Soviet Jews Increase Actions Against Barriers To Emigration; New Harassments Cited

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Soviet Jews are stepping up their agitation against the barriers to emigration. According to reliable Jewish sources, the new tack is to declare Israeli citizenship before obtaining visas and leaving the Soviet Union. This has been done already by Riga activists Ovsel El-yashovich and Mr. and Mrs. Faltelson, whose first names are unavailable. They recognize, it is understood, the possible adverse effect their announcements may have on the fate of their emigration applications, but are willing to take the risk in their attempt to dramatize their plight. Meanwhile, it has been learned that 23-year-old Yosif M. Mendelevich of Riga, who was sentenced to 15 years at last December's Leningrad trial, has been denied visits by his relatives. In addition, his requests for a copy of the Old Testament have been rejected. In addition, the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry charged today that two recent incidents indicate a step-up in harassment of Soviet Jewish activists. Rabbi Herschel Schacter, AJCSJ chairman, quoted tourists returning from the USSR as reporting that a Muscovite Jew, David Drabkin, has received threatening letters, one stating:

"We warn you, David Drabkin, that your anti-Soviet Zionist activity will bring you troubles. A stone might accidentally bruise your head or a car might trample you or you might not be living after getting involved in a fight. Take into account that we are not speaking idly." Drabkin has signed petitions protesting emigration roadblocks. The second incident involved another Muscovite Jew, Pinhas Krugler (or Klugliak), who, it was reported in today's JTA Daily News Bulletin, was beaten near his home toward the end of January. Rabbi Schacter added today that according to his informants, the 33-year-old man was attacked by two well-dressed men carrying lead pipes and yelling: "This is for the song 'Let My People Go' that you sing, and for your applications for emigration to Israel." When the victim reached the police station, his face covered with blood, he was warned he might be sentenced to 3 to 7 years in jail for false testimony, according to the report. "Both of these instances," Rabbi Schacter said, "are but the latest examples of a campaign designed to intimidate Jews from applying for emigration to Israel. The Soviet authorities place Jews in the impossible position of being denied the ability to express themselves as Jews, and then frustrated as well in their attempts to leave the Soviet Union for Israel, where they feel they can be fulfilled as Jews."

Strict Security Measures At West German Airports Following Terrorist Threats

FRANKFURT, Feb. 8 (JTA)--West German airports were alerted today after Palestinian terrorists threatened to attack German aircraft because of West Germany's alleged close ties with Israel. Mail and cargo shipments were embargoed at West Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich airports. Strict security checks were instituted at other airports for passengers, mail and freight.

Bush, Nominee For U.S. Envoy To UN, Supports UN Peacekeeping Force In Mideast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Former Rep. George Bush of Texas, President Nixon's nominee for the ambassadorship to the United Nations, expressed support today for some kind of UN peacekeeping force in the Middle East, but added: "I have no set feeling on how it should be constituted." Bush, a Republican, appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which will vote on his nomination. The hearing lasted only an hour, there were no opposition witnesses, and members of the committee indicated there would be no obstacle to confirmation. While noting that he had reached no "final conclusion" on the nature of a peacekeeping force, the Republican nominee stated that "the UN must come up with better machinery for peacekeeping." He added that he was "optimistic" about the contributions the UN could make to a Mideast peace and said he thought the Jarring talks looked promising. Bush, who resigned as president of Zapata Off-Shore Co., of Midland, Tex., in 1966 to run for Congress, told the committee that he had "divested myself totally" of any ties to the oil industry. He added that he favored continuing contact with countries not maintaining diplomatic relations with the United States, which would include Egypt. Regarding policy, he declared: "I clearly will follow the orders of the President." Only eight of the 15 members of the Foreign Relations Committee were present.

Wiesenthal Doubts Many Nazi War Criminals Will Ever Be Brought To Justice

VIENNA, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Simon Wiesenthal, whose war crimes documentation center here helps track down wanted Nazi war criminals, expressed doubt today that many of them now in West Germany will ever be brought to justice. Wiesenthal claimed that a number of known war criminals are living in the Hamburg area but are somehow protected by the authorities and have not been tried although they have supposedly been under investigation for years. He said one of them was Ludwig Hahn, head of Nazi security services in Warsaw who was later an official at the Treblinka death camp. Hahn was supposed to have been charged with the mass murder of Jews in Poland in 1943. Wiesenthal said he didn't think the Nazi will ever face trial.

U.S. Assures Israel Big Four Guarantee Of Borders No Substitute For Peace Accord

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The United States government has reportedly assured Israel that it does not regard a possible Four-Power guarantee of future borders between Israel and its neighbors as a substitute for a firm peace agreement that will establish secure borders. The latest American note sought to allay Israeli fears arising from Washington's apparent readiness to discuss the subject of Mideast guarantees with the other major powers--the Soviet Union, Britain and France. The U.S. reportedly stated that there was no change in its policy in this regard, informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. According to these sources, Premier Golda Meir is expected to reiterate

Israel's opposition to Four Power involvement in border questions at this time when she delivers her political report to the Knesset tomorrow. Mrs. Meir is also expected to indicate in her speech to Parliament that her government does not reject Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's offer of last Thursday to reopen the Suez Canal if Israeli forces are withdrawn part way from its east bank. The Premier will make no Israeli commitment to such a plan but will seek clarification of what Egypt has in mind. Mrs. Meir is expected to say that Israel will not withdraw from the waterway without a peace treaty but she may not rule out partial withdrawal to an extent that would give Israel continued military control over the Canal while allowing the Egyptians to clear it for navigation.

In this respect, Israel is anxious to place on record the fact that it has over the past three years offered to permit the reopening of the Canal even without a prior peace treaty, on condition that Israeli shipping is given the same rights of navigation as the shipping of other nations. Israeli officials fear that Israel's willingness in this regard may have been forgotten and that Sadat will get credit for taking the initiative to reopen the Canal, closed since the June, 1967 war. In an interview taped in Jerusalem on Friday for NBC television, Mrs. Meir stressed that Israel has been advocating reopening the Canal since 1967 and hence there was nothing new in Sadat's proposal. Certain news sources in Israel interpreted Mrs. Meir's remarks as a dismissal of the Sadat offer but government sources made it clear later that such was not the Premier's intention. Several ministers reportedly criticized Mrs. Meir's remarks to NBC at yesterday's Cabinet meeting for being too vague and thus lending themselves to erroneous interpretation. Certain ministers reportedly expressed strong feelings that the best way to regain the political initiative from Egypt was not to dismiss the idea of reopening the Canal but to probe it further, possibly through the U.S. Some ministers suggested that an expression of non-committal interest on Israel's part, coupled with a desire for more information, would put the onus on Sadat to provide further details, sources here said today.

Gahal Demands Israel Reject Sadat Plan; Preparing To Lead Debate in Knesset

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Israel's chief opposition party, Gahal, demanded today that the government categorically reject what it called an "ultimatum" by Egypt to withdraw Israeli forces from the east bank of the Suez Canal within the next 30 days. That was the interpretation Gahal put on Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's proposal to reopen the Suez Canal if Israel pulled back its troops from the waterway. Gahal indicated that it would lead the debate on the matter at tomorrow's Knesset session where Premier Golda Meir is scheduled to deliver a political report. The Gahal executive committee declared that the government must stand fast on its policy not to budge an inch from the present cease-fire lines until a permanent peace agreement is achieved with the Arabs. Gahal claimed that Sadat was using the threat of renewed warfare in 30 days to force Israel back from the Canal. "Israel's supreme interest, its security and welfare obliges it not to leave the slightest measure of doubt in anyone's mind that the Egyptian ultimatum has been utterly rejected," a Gahal statement said.

Union Elections Indicate Labor Alignment Holds Decisive Margin Over Other Factions

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Elections held yesterday by a newly merged trade union indicated that Premier Golda Meir's Labor Alignment continues to hold a decisive margin over all other factions. Trade union elections in Israel are regarded as indicators of national trends, just as local elections in the United States are sometimes interpreted as having national implications. The outcome of the first elections held by the new Metal, Electrical and Electronics Workers Union reflected the current distribution of seats in the governing councils of Histadrut, Israel's national labor federation. Heavy rains and winds held down balloting to just over 50 percent of the 67,000 eligible voters. The Labor Alignment emerged with 66 percent; the opposition Gahal faction with 16.8; Hapoel Hamizrachi, 8.6; Independent Liberals, 3.5; the Sneh Communists, 1.5; the pro-Moscow Rakach Communists, less than one percent, and Poale Agudat Israel 2.8 percent. The Rakach Communists lost a few points which were picked up by the Labor Alignment.

Communist Leaders Clash Verbally On Question Of Middle East Solution

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Two Israeli Communist leaders clashed verbally yesterday in the Arab village of Baka El-Gharbieh, near Natanya, on the question of a Middle East solution. Dr. Moshe Sneh, 62-year-old Knesset member and leader of the anti-Moscow Maki Communists, declared in a speech there that a compromise solution would be "the most revolutionary thing that could happen in the Middle East." At that, the local branch leader of the pro-Moscow Rakach Communists, Ibrahim Biadassi, spoke up and vehemently denounced any compromise--a surprise inasmuch as Rakach bases its appeal on Arab nationalism and disaffection with Israel and Baka El-Gharbieh is a Rakach stronghold. Biadassi was shouted down by Arab youngsters, who hooted him and shook hands warmly with Dr. Sneh.

Leonid Kogan Denounces 'Hooligans' Who Try To 'Wreck' U.S.-Soviet Cultural Exchange

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (JTA)--A Soviet violinist who is a Jew denounced today the "small group of hooligans" who, he said, tried to "wreck" performances by Soviet artists touring the United States under the U.S.-Soviet cultural exchange program. The performer, Leonid Kogan, said he personally witnessed an example of these "outrages" during his recital at Carnegie Hall in New York on Jan. 23. Kogan's remarks were issued by the Soviet Embassy here with an accompanying statement which said the violinist was describing "attempts staged by Zionist provocateurs." Kogan himself however used the word "hooligans" with no further identification. He made his remarks to a correspondent of Sovetskaya Kultura. A copy was delivered by the Embassy to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency office in Washington. Kogan said the "hooligans" were trying to "reduce to a minimum or frustrate in general, the cultural exchange program between our countries." He added, "I am very grateful to the American public which has shown once again that it fully dissociates itself from these hooligans and their action." He said that following his recital, "many Americans came to my dressing room to express appreciation for the concert and their indignation and protest against the impudent acts of the hooligans."

Israel Told Syria: Government Responsible For Activities Of Palestinian Terrorists

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Syrian government exerts iron-clad control over the activities of Palestinian terrorists based on Syrian soil and the Israel government therefore holds Damascus fully responsible for the recent increase in terrorist activities along the Israel-Syria demarcation line, authoritative sources here told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The terrorists make no move without the personal knowledge and approval of Syria's strong man, Gen. Hafez Assad or one of his ministers or military commanders, the sources said. Damascus authorities closely supervise all terrorist activities in Syria, including recruitment and fund-raising. Guerrillas are forbidden to carry arms or wear uniforms except by special permission and are strictly forbidden to enter the Israel-occupied territories--notably the Golan Heights--without a written permit from the Minister of Defense and orders personally signed by that Minister. Israeli knowledge of these details were verified by Syrian soldiers captured in an Israeli raid behind their lines last June 26, the sources said.

The close relationship between Damascus authorities and the terrorists antedate the Assad regime. When Assad rose to power last Nov. 13 after ousting the civilian Baathist regime that had botched Syria's intervention in the Jordanian civil war, reports from Damascus indicated a crack-down on the Syrian-supported Al Saika terrorists. But this amounted to nothing more than the ouster of elements loyal to the old regime and their replacement by guerrillas loyal to Assad, the Israeli sources said. Assad, in fact, has reaffirmed Syria's support of the terrorists and their objectives. He has permitted the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, headed by the Marxist Dr. George Habash, to re-establish its bases in Syria. Israeli sources quoted the Beirut newspaper Al Nahar as reporting that the PFLP regards the Syrian government's decision as the beginning of a "new phase in good relations between the two parties." On Feb. 5, the PFLP announced in Beirut that it had "carried out its first attack from Syrian territory on the Golan Heights from bases placed at its disposal by the Syrian government."

Central Consistory Of French Jews Reported In Serious Financial Difficulties

PARIS, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The central consistory of French Jews, which pays for the upkeep of synagogues and other religious institutions, is in "very serious" financial difficulties, its president, Baron Alain de Rothschild, reported yesterday at the consistory's annual assembly here. He told the 100 delegates that the consistory has nevertheless expanded its activities in cultural and religious fields over the past year and intends to continue to do so next year.

Eban Expected To Visit U.S.; Visit Officially On Behalf Of UJA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban is expected to leave for the United States in a few weeks. He will be making the visit officially on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, but is also expected to confer with leaders of the Nixon administration. The trip is regarded here with great interest, since it will provide the opportunity for Eban to discuss recent Middle East developments personally with U.S. policymakers.

RZA To Establish 'Council Of Intellectuals' To Combat New Left Views Of Israel

LONG BEACH, N.Y., Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Religious Zionist Organization of America announced yesterday that it was establishing a "Council of Intellectuals" to combat "indifferent and negative attitudes" toward Israel and Zionism by Jewish students of the New Left. The announcement was made at the close of the RZA's 62nd annual convention here by Rabbi Bernard Poupko, president, and Rabbi Bernard Bergman, chairman of the RZA. They said the new Council would be headed by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, professor of philosophy and Talmud at Yeshiva University and would consist of five to seven other academicians to be named at a later date. Rabbis Poupko and Bergman said the Council would have the task of developing specific programs to reach college and high school students so that they may become acquainted with the "invaluable precepts of Torah Judaism and the democratic ideals that are the principle of Israel." The two rabbis warned that the "attitudes of New Left Jews can be terribly damaging to the American Jewish community and the cause of Israel."

International Council Of Jewish Women Urges That To Aid Jews In Arab Countries

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Mrs. Shoshana Harel, international president of the 200,000-member International Council of Jewish Women, has asked United Nations Secretary General Thant "to exercise your influence and authority...on behalf of the suffering Jews in Arab countries, particularly Syria." The cable was sent to Thant as part of a campaign by the Council's 25 national branches to publicize the plight of Jews in Arab lands.

Hebrew U. Gets \$52,500 Grant From USDA For Project Against Harmful Insects

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The United States Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$52,500 research grant to the Hebrew University's faculty of agriculture at Rehovoth for a project to develop biological warfare against harmful insects. The faculty is headed by Dr. David Rosen. The project envisages the use of a certain species of wasp to destroy the "coccid scale," an insect harmful to plants. The use of one insect specie against another is an alternative to the use of chemical insecticides which have harmful effects on the environment. The Rehovoth institute has already scored some successes with the method.

Unusual Post Card With 7,000 Words Displayed At Jewish Community Library

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Among the items of Judaica now on display at the Jewish Community Library, is a post card containing 7,000 words of an entire Saturday morning service from the prayer book. The writing is so fine, that it must be viewed through a magnifying glass. The card is the work of Louis Shilling, now retired, who wrote the card for a contest in 1930 when he was the principal of a Hebrew school in Sloux City, Ia. He said the card took him about six weeks to complete, writing a few lines every day. Shilling said he used an ordinary pen with a very fine point for the work, but no magnifying glass. He no longer engages in his hobby because of his age.

