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Report Just Out Four Russian Jews Sentenced 3-7 Years In Secret Trial Year Ago

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A secret trial of six Russians--at least four of them Jews--was held in the Russian town of Ryazan a year ago, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from authoritative Jewish sources. The four defendants known to be Jewish were sentenced to prison terms of 3 to 7 years for anti-Soviet organizing and propaganda. The two other defendants, believed to be non-Jewish, also received jail terms. There was no immediate explanation of why news of the trial had not filtered out earlier. Ryazan, however, is a small town with few Jews, and thus the trial may not have become known for months. Ryazan is located about 115 miles southeast of Moscow. The Jewish defendants were described as follows: Shimon Grillus, 25, a ship repairer who defended himself, was sentenced to 5 years at labor. Yuri Beniaminovich Budka, 23, who was taking correspondence courses of the Institute of Radio Technology, was given 7 years at labor and one year of expulsion from the country; his brother, Valeri Beniaminovich Budka, 20, a student at the Institute, received a 3-year prison term; and Semion Zaslavski, 22, also a student at the Institute, had his 3-year sentence suspended when he reported.

The Budkas reportedly signed petitions urging emigration rights for Soviet Jews. Grillus was said to have been arrested in August, 1969; his home was then searched, and Hebrew books and recordings were appropriated. The other two prisoners were Oleg Frolov, 22, who was given 5 years at labor, and Yevgeni Mortimonov, 22, whose 3-year sentence was suspended because of his heart condition. Both were students. According to the sources, the prosecutor sought 7 years in prison and 3 years' banishment for Yuri Budka, 5 years' labor for Frolov and 3 years' labor for Valeri Budka. The prosecutor was identified by the sources as Dubtsov, the judge as Matvelev, and the defense attorneys as Kogan, Trukhacheva and Titov. At least one of the attorneys, Kogan, is believed to be Jewish, as his name is the Russian equivalent of Cohen. Entry to the trial, which ran Feb. 10-19, 1970, was said to have been by invitation only, with relatives probably not admitted. There were reportedly 20 witnesses examined, with the evidence including Hebrew books and recordings and a pamphlet titled "Dror," the Hebrew word for freedom. Following the sentencing, the Jewish defendants were said to have cried out "Next year in Jerusalem!"

Rogers Says Mrs. Meir's View On Suez Canal Reopening Deserves Consideration

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers said today that Israeli Premier Golda Meir's willingness, expressed yesterday, to consider reopening the Suez Canal but not at the cost of Israeli withdrawal from the Canal prior to a peace pact was "a proposal which deserves consideration." Restating to newsmen that decisions on such matters "rest with the parties," Rogers nevertheless added that any development that helps ease the tension in the Middle East was welcome. The State Department said last week that the U.S. would soon submit proposals for "preliminary supplemental guarantees" to the Big Four ambassadors in New York. The specific nature of those proposals has not been disclosed, and in fact may not be fully worked out yet, but are understood to center on language designed to supplement the United Nations mandate of mediator Gunnar V. Jarring. The proposal may not be formally presented at the next Big Four meeting, this Friday, but a U.S. spokesman noted today that the subject of border guarantees has now "moved toward the front burner."

Officers, Soldiers Charged With Undue Violence Against Gaza Strip Residents

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The Israel Army took disciplinary action today against four officers and an unstated number of soldiers following an investigation of acts of undue violence in the Gaza Strip. Three officers, two of them described as of senior rank, were given administrative reprimands. A fourth officer and a number of soldiers will face disciplinary court proceedings on charges of using undue violence against civilians in the Gaza Strip while searching for terrorists and hidden arms. The investigation was conducted after four soldiers wrote to the Chief of Staff and the Premier's office alleging that acts of violence were committed by members of their unit and other units after a wave of terrorist grenade attacks on civilians a month ago. Two Israeli children were killed and their mother wounded when a grenade exploded in their car on the main Gaza highway.

The investigating panel appointed by Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev, found that some of the charges brought by the soldiers were "exaggerated." There were no cases of wounds inflicted on civilians by firearms or of Israeli soldiers "insulting the honor" of Arab women, the panel found. But there were instances of unnecessary beating of civilians with truncheons and damage to property in the course of searches. Payment has already been made for the property damage, the Army said. The three officers reprimanded were cited for failure to exercise sufficient control over men under their command. The other officer and soldiers will be tried for exceeding their authority and violation of standing rules of conduct.

Eban Denies Israel Rejects Sadat's Canal Plan; Offers Three Proposals For Peace

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban denied today that Israel has rejected Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's proposal to reopen the Suez Canal. He said that interpretation placed by Cairo on Premier Golda Meir's Knesset speech yesterday was hasty and declared, "We hope that upon closer reflection the Cairo government will take a more mature view." Mrs. Meir told the Knesset that her government supports the reopening of the waterway but insisted that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from its east bank, a pre-condition demanded by Sadat, could come about only in the context of a firm peace settlement between Israel and Egypt. Egypt's official spokesman, Munir Hafez said in Cairo last night that Israeli withdrawal was an essential condition without which the

Canal could not be cleared and made safe for navigation. Hafez linked Israeli navigation rights in the Canal to a solution of the Palestinian refugee problem. Addressing foreign newsmen at a press conference, Eban listed three ways in which the Egyptian government could help advance the situation toward peace. First, he said, Egypt should abolish the 30-day deadline which it imposed on the latest cease-fire extension "and which has been received with disappointment internationally." Secondly, Egypt should respond affirmatively to the proposals submitted by Israel through United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring. Thirdly, Eban said, Egypt can cooperate in reopening the Suez Canal to all shipping, including Israel's.

"The ball is now in the Egyptian court but can be returned for fruitful discussions," the Israeli Foreign Minister said. Eban said that Israel objects to any Big Power discussion at this stage of future border guarantees and has so informed the United States, although the latter has agreed to participate in such discussions with the other major powers--Soviet Union, Britain and France. Eban said that Washington has assured Israel that it stands by and will defend the principle that Big Power guarantees are no substitute for a peace treaty. However, Eban said, the mere discussion of guarantees before a peace treaty is achieved carried "psychological risks." He said Israel feared that the Arab countries "might be tempted to regard this as an escape route which would enable them to avoid concluding peace with Israel." Referring to the Suez Canal, Eban said the waterway had greater political than economic importance for Israel. He said Egypt's refusal to allow its use by Israeli shipping was "discrimination that is contagious." He said there was no legal basis in international law to link Israel's use of the canal to a solution of the refugee problem. Eban recalled that on Sept. 1, 1961 the Security Council stated explicitly that Israel had the right of passage through the Canal under the then existing armistice agreement. All the more so, this must apply under conditions of non-belligerency which is one of the major points of the Security Council's Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, Eban said.

Six Arab Terrorists Killed In Clash With Israeli Patrol; Dissension In El Fatah Ranks

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Six Arab terrorists were killed last night in a clash with an Israeli patrol near Kunettra in the Golan Heights, less than a mile inside Israeli-held territory. The band was intercepted by the Israeli unit when it tried to cross the demarcation line. There were no Israeli casualties. Police reported last night that 45 members of El Fatah were arrested recently with large quantities of arms, ammunition and sabotage devices. According to police, the gang was responsible for 19 terrorist incidents in the Jerusalem and Hebron areas during the past 18 months. One incident involved the rocket shelling of a Jerusalem residential quarter. Arab quarters report serious dissension in the ranks of El Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian guerrilla groups. The Lebanese newspaper Al Hayat reported on a meeting of El Fatah's "Revolutionary Council" at which the guerrilla chief, Yasser Arafat, showed up 24 hours late and barely managed to reverse an earlier vote of no confidence in himself and the El Fatah leadership.

The paper said the "Palestinian National Council" will probably meet in Cairo at the end of this month. It will be the first meeting since the Jordanian civil war last September in which the Palestinian guerrillas took a severe drubbing from King Hussein's forces. El Fatah's current difficulties stem from that event. The Lebanese newspaper Al Kafah reported a serious split between the El Fatah rank-and-file in the field and its high command and between the Palestinian liberation movement and the Arab states. According to Al Kafah, the dissenters threaten to expose the El Fatah leadership unless it starts a purge of alleged "traitors." The report was confirmed by the Iraqi News Agency.

World Hebrew Union Preparing Hebrew Language Textbooks For Shipment To USSR

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The World Hebrew Union is preparing Hebrew language textbooks that Israelis can send to friends and relatives in the Soviet Union who want to teach themselves Hebrew. According to Prof. Aryeh Tartakower, chairman of the Union which promotes Hebrew-speaking among Jews all over the world, more than 1500 texts have been sent to Russia by Israelis and at least half of them have been received by the addressees. Prof. Tartakower said he didn't think any harm could come to the Jews who received the books. "We were acting on the word of the former Russian Ambassador to Israel, Dimitri Chubakhin who, just before Russia severed relations with Israel (in 1967), stated that there was no legal obstacle to Soviet citizens receiving Hebrew books." That, said Tartakower, "was sort of a go-ahead" for the project. He claimed that a quarter of a million Russian Jews listen to Hebrew language courses broadcast by the Israel Radio's overseas service. According to Tartakower and his deputy, Chaim Levanon, the report of the wide audience for the Hebrew broadcasts came from "trustworthy" sources.

Architects Protest Against Plans They Are Being Asked To Submit For New Suburb

JERUSALEM, Feb. 19 (JTA)--A team of architects has complained to Housing Minister Zeev Sharef that his Ministry was forcing them to draft plans for a new Jerusalem suburb against their professional judgement. They also complained to Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem. Sharef is reportedly studying the protest but has made no comment so far. The architects said they were compelled to draw up plans for a complex of four-story buildings to house 50,000 persons while the original plans for Nebi Samwil in northwest Jerusalem called for small buildings to house no more than 2,000. The Housing Ministry is not subject to Jerusalem's municipal zoning laws. The architects' revolt coincided with recent sharp criticism of a master plan for rebuilding East Jerusalem. The plan has been shelved pending review by a committee of experts.

Police, Intelligence Agents On Trail Of Arab Terrorists Believed Planning Aerial Hijackings

BONN, Feb. 10 (JTA)--West German police and counter-intelligence agents are on the trail of Arab terrorists believed to be planning a new series of aerial hijackings and bomb outrages against German aircraft because of Bonn's diplomatic and commercial ties with Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. West German intelligence was tipped off by a foreign source to the presence of the Arab terrorists, said to have entered Germany undetected.

Official Contends Government Opposed To Boycotts But Cannot Enforce Compliance

LONDON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--A government spokesman said today that while the British government has repeatedly stated its opposition to trade and shipping boycotts, including that of the Arab states against Israel, it could not intervene to prevent British firms from complying with boycott measures. Anthony Grant, Undersecretary for Trade and Industry, made that statement in a written reply to Michael Fidler, a Conservative MP. Fidler, who is president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, had sent an inquiry to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, John Davis, concerning action the government intended to take in connection with the Mobil Shipping Co. ban on goods manufactured by Israeli or Jewish firms aboard its tankers calling at Arab ports. Fidler asked Davis whether the government would instruct British firms to ignore instructions and threats of boycott.

The Mobil Shipping Co., a British subsidiary of Mobil Oil Ltd., aroused the Jewish community's ire when it sent a letter to British ship chandlers instructing them not to supply its vessels "with products of Israeli origin or with products which appear to be of Israeli or Jewish origin." A Mobil spokesman later apologized for the content of the letter and said the words "Jewish origin" had been deleted. But he added that the ban still held because Mobil tankers calling at Libyan and other Arab ports were subject to boycott and fines if articles of Israeli-make were found aboard. Grant said in reply to Fidler that the British government was opposed "to any interference with British companies' freedom to trade." He added that, "it is nevertheless for each company to decide in the light of its own commercial interests what its attitude is to be towards such boycott."

Pell Urges UN To Consider Treatment Of Soviet Jews; Condemns Soviet Anti-Semitism

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Sen. Claiborne Pell, Democrat of Rhode Island, urged today that the United Nations consider the question of the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. "Our common conscience still bears the scars of our silence in the 1930s," declared Pell, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "History must not record that in the 1970s we again closed our eyes and our hearts to the persecution of the Jewish people." The 52-year-old non-Jewish legislator called on President Nixon to instruct the United States representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights, Mrs. Rita E. Hauser, to bring the matter up at the commission's next meeting. "It is time," asserted Pell, "that all men of good will join together in condemning the continuing anti-Semitism that today is so rampant in the Soviet Union. While some may say that the Russian brand of cultural and religious discrimination is not the equivalent of the German slaughter of the 1930s and 1940s, to my mind they do have a common goal--the annihilation of a race and religion. One was physical extermination, the other is spiritual and cultural death. But both represent a similar kind of genocide." Pell, before entering the Senate in 1960 served on the International Rescue Committee and the National Council of Refugees and the American Immigration Conference.

Soviet Cultural Group To Be Picketed By Jewish Students; Request For Emigration Given

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Several hundred Jewish students from Baltimore area universities are expected to picket the opening performance of the Siberian Dancers and Singers of Omsk at the Lyric Theater here tonight, according to Leon Sachs, executive director of the Baltimore Jewish Council. They will hand members of the audience entering the theater copies of a letter from the Baltimore Committee for Soviet Jewry to the manager of the troupe condemning the alleged mistreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union, Sachs told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The letter, signed by Jack Fruchtman, Jr., secretary of the Baltimore Committee for Soviet Jewry, asks the visiting Russian artists to convey the feelings expressed in it to Soviet authorities when they return home. The letter states, "Your forthcoming appearance in Baltimore is causing a great amount of consternation." It goes on to say that "The Committee feels that the Siberian Dancers and Singers of Omsk and other similar cultural activities are but Soviet masks to conceal the denial of liberty. You undoubtedly are well aware that your performance before the citizenry of Baltimore this week could not happen in the Soviet Union if you were a Jewish dance troupe." The letter also referred to a resolution adopted by the Baltimore City Council on Jan. 18 condemning the recent hijack trial of Jews in Leningrad and "Soviet treatment of the thousands of Baltimore citizens who have relatives in Poland, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia and other areas suffering under the yoke of Soviet domination."

The Baltimore Jewish Council is made up of eight local Jewish organizations with national affiliations. Sachs told the JTA that all of them plus several others not members of the Baltimore Jewish Council, comprise the Baltimore Committee for Soviet Jewry. He said the student pickets would represent Jewish campus groups at Johns Hopkins University, the University of Baltimore, Loyola University and the University of Maryland. In Philadelphia yesterday, Yuri Yurovsky, director of the Omsk dance company, agreed to carry home a request that Soviet Jews be allowed to emigrate or to retain their culture and religion in the USSR. Yurovsky met with representatives of the Philadelphia Jewish Community Council who made the request. Theodore R. Mann, president of the Council defended the appearance of the Soviet artists as "part of the important cultural exchange policy between our two countries." But he deplored what he called "the deliberate denial and repression of any act of Jewish self-expression by the Soviet government." The Chicago Committee On Soviet Jewry announced today that it planned a peaceful demonstration for Soviet Jewry when the Siberian Dancers and Singers of Omsk perform in that city next month. He said the plans called for a "Purim Protest" on the occasion.

43 Jewish Refugees, Migrants Arrive In U.S. To Be Reunited With Families

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--An unusual "cross-sectional" flight of 43 Jewish refugees and migrants arrived this afternoon at Kennedy Airport, it was reported by United Hias Service, the worldwide Jewish migration agency. The charter flight from Rome and Brussels brought new arrivals from Egypt, Morocco, Rumania, Hungary, Poland and even Cuba, all coming to be reunited with their families. The youngest aboard was 3, and the oldest 68. Among the occupations were: watchmaker, chemist, artist, musician, bookkeeper, engineer and welder. The newcomers will be resettled in Cleveland, Newark, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Montreal, Canada.

Federation Council Assessing Damages To Jewish Community In Wake Of Earthquake

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 10 (JTA)--The Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles is in the process of assessing the amount of damage inflicted upon Jewish community centers, shops, synagogues and private homes during the violent earthquake yesterday that shook the Los Angeles area. Albert Bronstein, executive director of Federation told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that while the damage suffered by the Los Angeles Jewish community could not be immediately assessed, it appeared "limited." "The Federation building," he reported, "sustained some minor structural damage." He observed that most people had suffered greater emotional shock rather than actual physical harm. "It was a terrifying thing," he said. He also informed the JTA that despite the chaos created by the quake, most Jewish community activities were proceeding along normally. The quake, which left its heaviest marks in central and northern Los Angeles and particularly the San Fernando Valley, killed at least 24 persons and injured hundreds of others.

PEARL Lauds Rockefeller's Stand On Parent-Air Bill; Reform Rabbis Oppose Public Aid

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller's opposition to the Speno-Lerner Parent-Aid bill has been hailed by Leo Pfeffer, chief attorney for the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL). Pfeffer, who is also chief counsel to the American Jewish Congress, called the Governor's comments "a statesmanlike recognition that public support must not go to non-public schools if the public schools are not to become merely a dumping ground for the disadvantaged, including racial minorities, the poor and the children no other school wants." Rockefeller said in Albany on Monday that the Parent-Aid bill, which would provide tuition grants to parents of private-school pupils, would be "the first step to undermine, if not destroy, the public school system of our country, not just the state," and would be fatal to the school-integration movement. The Governor restated, however, that he favored repeal of the Blaine Amendment, which bars all aid to private schools.

Pfeffer said Rockefeller's rejection of Speno-Lerner was "a strong reaffirmation of the Governor's long-time commitment to integration" and a recognition that the bill's tuition grants would be "a fatal step en route to full funding of such schools." The chief counsel reserved comment on Rockefeller's support of Blaine repeal. The Association of Reform Rabbis of Greater New York and Vicinity issued a statement today reaffirming its "complete opposition" to any public aid to private schools. "Any attempt aimed at giving public funds to non-public schools can only result in the further deterioration of the public school system," the association declared. It urged its congregations, the members of the State Legislature and all New Yorkers to "reject any and all efforts that are made to subvert or circumvent" the current ban on such aid. The association's statement made no specific references to Gov. Rockefeller's Monday remarks.

Orthodox Rabbi Urges Congregants To Boycott Lettuce Picked By Non-Union Workers

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (JTA)--The associate rabbi of one of the nation's largest Orthodox synagogues has urged his congregants to support the campaign by Cesar Chavez to organize lettuce workers in California by refusing to purchase any lettuce picked by non-union help. The appeal was made by Rabbi Haskell Lookstein of Kehillath Jeshurun congregation, who cited rabbinic sources for a description of products made by exploited workers as non-kosher. Writing in the congregation bulletin, Rabbi Lookstein mentioned the successful boycott of grapes picked in California which was a major factor in bringing about a contract for grape-pickers. Declaring it was possible to buy lettuce with a union label and that about 25 percent of the lettuce on the market is so labeled, he suggested that congregants ask for union-labeled lettuce, describing it as kosher lettuce.

Congressional Record Reprints JTA Analysis Of Plight Of Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA)--An editorial on the significance of the Leningrad trial by Murray Zuckoff, news editor of the JTA Daily News Bulletin, has been placed in the Congressional Record by Rep. Bertram L. Podell, Democrat of New York. The editorial, "Soviet Trial Is Warning To All Opponents Of The Regime," appeared in the Dec. 18, 1970 JTA Bulletin as a "Special News Analysis" and was additionally syndicated by the JTA. Podell placed it in the Congressional Record of Feb. 4 "to demonstrate that their (Soviet Jews') plight has grown more serious." He remarked: "Jews in Russia have been subject to overt persecution and yet have not been granted the right to emigrate by Soviet officials. The injustices that have been committed against the Jews have now become public knowledge. One article that documents the seriousness of the problem is one by Murray Zuckoff, editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency." Zuckoff wrote that the Leningrad trial and the expected additional trials were "in effect a warning to all those in the Soviet Union and its east European satellites that any opposition to the regime will be unmercifully crushed." He added: "The trial reveals that Jews are in the dock as scapegoats because they are in the forefront of the struggle against the criminal rule of the Russian oligarchs... In the last analysis, the struggle to free the Soviet people from the shackles of enslavement--mental and physical--will be attributed to the heroism of those who dared to defy."

Israel, Canada Sign New Air Agreement; Establishes First Direct Services Between Two

OTTAWA, Feb. 10 (JTA)--Israel and Canada signed a new air agreement here today that will establish the first direct air service between the two countries. It will be operated jointly by El Al, Israel's national airline and Canadian Pacific Airlines. El Al's inaugural flight will leave Toronto and Montreal for Tel Aviv on March 28 followed by the first CPA flight April 1. The air agreement was signed by Israel's Ambassador to Canada, Ephraim Evron and Canadian Foreign Minister Mitchell Sharp. Flights will be increased to four a week during the summer tourist season. Ken Dakin, CPA's assistant vice president for marketing and sales told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the new service will be promoted in a joint advertising and sales campaign with El Al and the Israel Government Tourist Office in Canada. He said CPA's package tours to Spain, Italy and Greece would be augmented by special Holy Land tours. Dakin said that CPA and El Al have prepared joint schedules, brochures, posters and fare charts for the new service.