

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

Wednesday, March 10, 1971

No. 47

JACY Announces First Grants Of \$12,500 To Jewish Student Groups In New York Area

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA)--The newly organized Board of Directors of the Jewish Association for College Youth (JACY) -- an independent subvention agency established by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies -- has made its first allocations to Jewish student groups on metropolitan campuses, according to an announcement by Martin Blumenthal, its president. In its initial allocations, the Board made grants totalling \$12,500 for supplementary use to Jewish student groups at Columbia University and New York University, the Jewish Student Press Service, the New York Union of Jewish Students, and the editorial board of a city-wide Jewish student newspaper. Forthcoming Board meetings will be devoted to further consideration of proposals from student groups and agencies, with a view to allocating additional sums for the establishment and improvement of Jewish student activities on campuses throughout the metropolitan area. Organized to help establish and maintain closer relationships between community and campus, JACY has been reviewing proposals from recognized student groups and agencies related to Jewish college students in order to determine the amount of support it will extend to such programs within the limits of available funds.

The JACY Board started its work several weeks ago with an initial \$75,000 grant from Federation, intended primarily as seed money, with the understanding that it would not only manage its own program, but would also enjoy latitude to seek funds beyond those received from Federation. It was also intended that JACY would encourage recognized student groups and agencies to submit applications related to programs which would meet the personal needs of students for counseling and other forms of health and welfare service, nourish their sense of Jewish identity and connection with the Jewish community, increase their knowledge and understanding of Jewish values and contemporary Jewish life through educational and cultural activities, and cultivate their participation in community affairs. Guidelines on priorities tentatively established by JACY for the distribution of available funds, according to Mr. Blumenthal, stress the factor of maximal student initiative and participation, the advisability of helping new Jewish student groups to flourish where little Jewish activity has hitherto been evident, and the overriding need to stimulate programs which are likely to enjoy a measure of continuity.

Of the Board's first allocations of \$12,500, \$2,500 was made to the New York Union of Jewish Students in support of an upcoming New York area conference in March and "Jubilee 71," scheduled for April, which aims to acquaint participants with opportunities for Jewish studies and experience available on campus. Another \$2,500 was allocated to the Jewish Student Press Service, for more effective service to Jewish student newspapers in New York, and \$3,500 for establishment of a city-wide Jewish student paper. The latter grant carries with it the condition that all interested groups agree on a representative Board. The Council of Federations and Jewish Welfare Funds announced on Feb. 5 a number of grants from its committee on funding national campus projects, with the largest grant of \$10,000 to the Jewish Student Press Service. The \$2,500 to the Jewish Student Press Service by JACY is the second from Federation sources. The remainder of the overall allocation designated \$2,000 for Jewish student programs at Columbia, to be administered through Rabbi Charles Sheer, counsellor to Jewish students, and an equal amount for student programs at New York University's downtown and Washington Heights campuses, to be administered through the director of Jewish Culture Foundation.

19-Year-Old Jewish Soldier In Soviet Army Demands Discharge, Right To Emigrate

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA)--A 19-year-old Jewish soldier in the Soviet Army has demanded a discharge and the right to go to Israel, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. According to reliable sources, Leonid Kolchinsky, formerly of Kharkov, submitted his demand to his commanding officer and sent a copy to Gen. Lepishev, the chief political commissar for the Soviet Army. The sources said that Kolchinsky was drafted last Dec. 29 after trying unsuccessfully for more than a year to obtain an exit visa. Last May he wrote the Supreme Soviet saying he was voluntarily giving up his Soviet citizenship. Last October he was jailed for 20 days after an argument with a notary public in Kharkov named Boyteva who refused to notarize documents authorizing a friend to act on his behalf to secure a visa. He contracted pneumonia in jail and was not fully recovered when he was drafted, the sources said. Kolchinsky's demand for emigration rights apparently reached high Soviet authorities. Last Nov. he was officially informed by Gregory Nazarenko, a Foreign Ministry representative, that his visa request was denied. According to the sources, the young man wants his case brought before world opinion even though it could seriously jeopardize him as a member of the Soviet armed forces.

U.S. Continues Cautious Approach To Thant Report; McCloskey Transcript Made Available

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)--The State Department today continued to take a cautious, non-committal approach to the part of UN Secretary General U Thant's Middle East progress report last week which criticized Israel for refusing to commit itself to total withdrawal from Sinai. Department spokesman Charles Bray told reporters at today's news briefing that he could not verify the transcript of yesterday's briefing by Robert J. McCloskey. McCloskey had said the U.S. endorsed the Thant report generally but refused to say whether it approved the specific call for a response by Israel on the withdrawal question. Bray said he was not questioning the validity of the transcript. A copy of the text, made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, failed to confirm today's New York Times story which claimed that McCloskey had expressed U.S. endorsement of the full Thant report including its call to Israel to "respond favorably." Bray refused to comment on the Times story directly. He told newsmen, however, "In present circumstances I will reiterate the doctrine that in ambiguity there is clarity. Let my remarks on the Middle East stand on that today." The JTA learned today that some State Department sources described the Times report as a "far out interpretation of what McCloskey

said." Following is the verbatim official transcript of the part of yesterday's news briefing relating to the Thant report. Q. Do we expect Ambassador Jarring to make another set of inquiries or proposals to the parties, and quickly, in order to take advantage of the present non-firing situation in the Middle East? A. I am not sure that we know. Q. Are we in contact with him about it? A. We will be. Q. Today? A. I cannot confirm that. Q. Do we support all aspects of the Secretary General's report to the Security Council on that situation? A. Yes. Our feeling is that the Secretary General brought the matter up to date and included important calls for restraint against firing in the area. Q. He also called for a response from Israel on the questions that had been put to both sides on this thing by Ambassador Jarring. Do we support that as well? A. I would have no comment on that particular point. Q. Is that consistent with your earlier remark that we supported his report in general? Are you excluding this position now? A. No. I am just not saying anything more about it. It has been important for us, I think you understand over a period of time, that we need to be careful about our remarks publicly and officially so that anything we say does not prejudice the positions of the parties who must do the negotiating and that is particularly what I am endeavoring to do.

Bray would not comment today on the reported recent letter from Secretary of State William P. Rogers to Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad assuring Egypt that the U.S. was doing everything it could to persuade Israel to change its position on withdrawal from Sinai. He also refused to comment on a reported message from President Nixon to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Asked if United Nations special envoy Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring was expected to send another message to Israel, he replied, "We are anxious to see the Jarring mission proceed but have no specifics on how it might proceed." Asked if he saw any evidence of a cooling of U.S. relations with Israel, Bray replied, "Not any that is perceptible to us." He added, "We continue to do what we appropriately can to promote the possibility of a peaceful settlement in the Middle East."

Thant Silent On Developments In Mideast; No Word Whether He Will See Eban

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 9 (JTA)—Less than two days after the formal termination of the Middle East cease-fire, Secretary General Thant seemed to be clamping down more than usual on comment on the situation. A United Nations spokesman declined or refused comment repeatedly at today's regular noon briefing. On other questions he said, as he has before, that he had no pertinent information to impart. The questions by newsmen covered such points as the most recent Israeli statement on the situation, whether the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) will resume reporting Suez Canal overflights and shellings, and whether Thant would meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban when he arrives here next week. The UN spokesman did disclose that Thant would be meeting late this afternoon with a delegation composed of the Egyptian, Jordanian, Saudi Arabian, Indonesian and Pakistani ambassadors. But the spokesman said he did not know the reason for the meeting.

Canal Zone Remains Quiet; Terrorist Activities Flare Along Syrian-Lebanese Borders

TEL AVIV, March 9 (JTA)—The Suez Canal front remained quiet 24 hours after the cease-fire expired but terrorist activity flared along the Syrian and Jordanian borders. An Israeli soldier was wounded in a bazooka attack on Nahal Golan in the Golan Heights this morning. Katyusha rockets were fired last night near Kuneitra and Merom Hagolan kibbutz. No casualties were reported. Settlers in the southern Beisan region were forced to take to their bomb shelters last night under a volley of rocket fire from Jordan. Israeli forces returned the fire with mortars. No casualties were reported. An Arab terrorist was killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol near Har Dov on the Lebanese border this morning. There were no Israeli casualties.

Arab Families, Related To Wanted Terrorists, Exiled To Deserted Town In The Sinai

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA)—More than 30 Arab families from the Gaza Strip who are related to wanted terrorists, have been exiled to a deserted town deep in the Sinai peninsula, it was disclosed today. Another 150 Arabs from the Strip suspected of maintaining contact with terrorists are being held in a special camp in the Sinai it was learned. The issue was raised in the Knesset today. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan denied that the Sinai camp was a "concentration camp." He said that 34 Gaza Strip families had been sent to Abu Znaima, a former manganese mining town on the shores of the Red Sea about 100 miles south of the Suez Canal, which was abandoned after the Six-Day War. According to Dayan, five families have since been returned to Gaza. The families were suspected of maintaining contact with fugitive terrorists whom they allegedly supplied with money and food. The rationale for the exile was to cut off the sources of support and thereby make it more likely that the terrorists would be captured, Dayan said. Each of the deported families included at least one adult male. In reply to another question, Dayan said Israeli authorities know about terrorists in the Gaza Strip who are members of the Communist Party which is illegal in the area. At an earlier question-and-answer session with a group of disabled veterans, Dayan confirmed a statement attributed to him last month that he would prefer to retain the Sharm el-Sheikh stronghold in southern Sinai without peace to peace without Sharm el-Sheikh. He said he had been expressing an opinion.

10,000 Soviet Jews Have Applied For Permits To Leave USSR And Emigrate To Israel

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA)—Ten thousand Soviet Jews have already applied for permits to leave the Soviet Union to come to Israel, Absorption Minister Nathan Peled said yesterday in the Knesset. Peled claimed that the total number of Russian Jews who want to come to Israel was believed to run into many tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands.

Nixon Expresses Deep Personal Concern Over Plight Of Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)—President Nixon expressed deep personal concern over the plight of Soviet Jews and said the world must be made aware of it, according to Rabbi Joshua Haberman, of the Reform Washington Hebrew Congregation, who delivered the sermon at the ecumenical worship services held in the White House on Sunday. Rabbi Haberman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the President referred to Soviet Jews in private conversation with him after the sermon. He expressed the view that all human beings have the right to emigrate in order to live in freedom, Rabbi Haberman said.

Soviet Emigre Who Was in Prison 10 Years Says 250,000 Russian Jews Want To Emigrate

WASHINGTON, March 9 (JTA)--Mrs. Luba Bershadskaya, who spent 10 years in three Soviet prison camps, believes about 250,000 Jews in the Soviet Union have asked for visas for emigration to Israel. She said she based her estimate on information she had acquired from friends and her frequent visits to the visa office in Moscow before her departure for Israel last July, and from sources in Israel. Mrs. Bershadskaya's figure, given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an exclusive interview yesterday, compared favorably with the statement by Israeli Absorption Minister Nathan Peled in the Knesset on Sunday that the total number of Russian Jews who want to come to Israel was believed to run into tens of thousands if not hundreds of thousands. In her private opinion, Mrs. Bershadskaya said, a million and a half of the more than three million Jews in the Soviet Union would emigrate immediately if they were allowed to leave. Mrs. Bershadskaya gave the interview after a luncheon with a dozen Congressmen in the House dining room. The luncheon was sponsored by Rep. James Scheuer, New York Democrat. Mrs. Bershadskaya deplored violence as a manifestation of solidarity with Soviet Jews. She said that Jews in Russia receive information about what is said of them in the outside world from the Voice of America, Kol Israel, the BBC, Radio Liberty, all based in West Germany, and the Canadian Broadcasting Co.

"Even those who are afraid to apply for visas are not afraid to listen," she said. The Russian emigre came to Washington after traveling for six weeks in the United States and Canada. She made about 125 speeches and held many news conferences and private talks about the plight of Soviet Jews. She said she was sentenced in 1940 to 6-10 years' imprisonment "on suspicion of criminal connections with Americans." A former ballet dancer and for four years an employe at the American Embassy in Moscow, she worked in the prison as a laundress. When she returned to Moscow in 1956, Mrs. Bershadskaya said, she found that her three children had been told in their schools that their mother was an enemy of the people. Mrs. Bershadskaya divorced her first husband. She remarried in Moscow and her husband is now in Israel. Before 1946, she said, she did not feel like a Jew. When she was released from prison she said she found "more difficulties from anti-Semitism in Moscow than in the prisons." Friends, she said, would not help her because she was Jewish. Mrs. Bershadskaya said "I did not expect so much interest (shown by Americans and Canadians). I am sorry my friends in Russia cannot see this. I cry when I see this. When I finish my speeches, many people kiss me. They tell me they understand me. I am very tired. But when I begin to speak, I forget that I am tired because the crowds are so interested."

Rustin Says He Will Not Accept NCJW Award If Strike Continues During Awards Dinner

NEW YORK, March 9 (JTA)--Bayard Rustin, the black civil rights leader, has informed the National Council of Jewish Women that he will not be on hand to accept its 1971 John F. Kennedy Award later this month if the clerical and professional workers striking the Council are still picketing. Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute here, wrote also to Richard Morton, executive director of Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO. He said simply: "You can be assured that I shall honor Local 1707's picket line if you are on strike at the time of the award." That time is March 28-April 1, when the Council will be holding its biennial convention in Detroit. Union spokesman Erik Strong told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that "so far there is no indication that management is willing to discuss anything" beyond an offer of a \$100-a-week minimum wage effective in July.

Strong said that that offer was "totally unacceptable," and charged the Council with failing to discuss pension plans, health plans and overtime. The walkout by the 60 union members--three weeks old today--is the first strike against the 100,000-member Council in its 65-year existence. Rustin has been named to receive the NCJW's Kennedy award for service to humanity. Hannah Stein, executive director of the NCJW, commented on Rustin's letter: "We recognize his position." She added that should Rustin not appear at the convention, "in one form or another he will get his award." Strong also told the JTA that his office had written to Sol M. Linowitz, the attorney and business executive scheduled to speak at the Council convention, advising him that the Detroit Hilton will be picketed by the union. As of today, he said, Linowitz had not replied.

Two Army Officers Denied Marriage Licenses Because They Are Considered Illegitimate

JERUSALEM, March 9 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has intervened personally on behalf of two young Army officers who have been denied marriage licenses by the rabbinical court because according to religious law they are illegitimate children. He has taken the matter up at government level and is supported by Maj. Gen. Shlomo Goren, the chief chaplain of Israel's armed forces, it was learned today. The case was kept secret for two months and came to light only after some of the details were leaked to the press. The names of the two officers who are brothers, were not given. According to the reports, their mother had been married to a Christian convert in Eastern Europe who disappeared after World War II. She emigrated to Israel and re-married without disclosing her previous marriage to the authorities. She bore two sons who entered the armed forces.

When they applied for marriage licenses the rabbinical authorities discovered their "faulty antecedents" and claimed that their mother's second marriage was void and "forbidden" under religious law. They were denied the right to wed the girls of their choice because religious law allows illegitimate children to marry only other persons of illegitimate status. The rabbinical court's decision is repugnant to a majority of Israelis and a new religious controversy seems inevitable. One authority said a way out would be to declare the mother's first marriage void, thus establishing the legitimacy of her sons. Matters of marriage and divorce in Israel are the exclusive province of the Orthodox rabinate under Israeli law. There is no civil marriage in the country. A recent proposal to the government by Gen. Dayan to amend the law brought a threat from the National Religious Party to quit the Cabinet.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency wishes all its readers and subscribers a very happy Purim.

