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Jewish Student Group Succeeds In Halting Mobil Oil Co. Recruiting Drive On Campus

WALTHAM, Mass., March 14 (JTA)--The Jewish Activist League at Brandeis University has taken credit for the cancellation by Mobil Oil Company of its recruitment session scheduled for this past Monday. Students M. J. Rosenberg and Bruce Phillips, the JAL leaders, called it "a victory in our struggle against those companies that adhere to the guidelines of the Arab Boycott Committee." They added: "We also consider it significant that the JAL of Brandeis was the first campus Jewish group to take on Mobil and they so easily caved in when they were forced to justify their anti-Jewish position. We have no doubt but that it was student pressure, and the tacit support of the Brandeis Administration, that led to the Mobil surrender." The two activists said they hoped that "the tactics used by the Brandeis JAL will be followed by students at other schools with substantial Jewish populations when companies like Mobil appear on their campus." On Feb. 12, more than 100 Jewish students at Brandeis interrupted a job presentation by four Mobil executives, challenging their company's policy. They and other students then left the room, leaving only around 10 of the original group of around 125 students.

Rawleigh Warner Jr., chairman of Mobil, denied last month that the huge oil operation he heads complies or has complied with "a world-wide boycott of Israeli goods," noting that "Mobil observes only those boycotts which are the expressed policy of the U.S. government." Rosenberg termed this policy anti-Semitic. One of the Mobil officials, college relations manager Robert Brooksbank, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had decided not to return to Brandeis Monday because there had been "a very poor response" at the February session and because it was "unlikely" that Mobil "could get a fair hearing at this particular time" considering "the general climate that has prevailed on the campus." Elaborating on the unsympathetic "climate" at Brandeis, Brooksbank said the "baiting" by Jewish students had given him and his colleagues "very little opportunity to be rational, very little opportunity to be factual." The situation was further complicated, he added, by squabbling among various Jewish protesters. It was all, Brooksbank said, "a very distressing situation," especially in that Mobil had considered Brandeis "a good source for recruits of the Jewish faith."

18 Soviet Jewish Families Appeal To Queen Elizabeth For Emigration Aid

LONDON, March 14 (JTA)--Eighteen Soviet Jewish families in Georgia, who have been refused permission to emigrate to Israel, have appealed to Queen Elizabeth to help them. In a letter written in Russian, the Georgian Jews declared that they were "entitled to emigrate." They related that they had all received invitations from relatives in Israel and promises from Soviet officials that they would be allowed to leave without impediment. Trusting this promise, they wrote, they sold all their property and homes, and resigned from the positions they held. "We filled out the forms and remembered the promises. A year passed and nothing happened," they wrote. They begged the Queen to bring the "Soviet Jewish question" for "debate in any forum, including the United Nations General Assembly, because time is passing and we don't know what awaits us even a month from now." The signatories appealed to her to "use all your prestige and all your influence, sparing no time or effort, because of the scales where life is weighed, the good will be reckoned." At the close of the letter, they wrote: "Our prayers are with Israel - pray for us, your Majesty." Meanwhile, it was learned here today that Russia's top police official, Col. Gen. Nikolai A. Shchelokov, met with about 50 Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel and promised them an answer soon on whether they will be permitted to leave. According to sources, the 110 Jews who staged a sit-in Wednesday in the reception room of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow, and vowed to go on a hunger strike, called off the strike on the strength of Shchelokov's promise.

Javits: Nixon, State Department Differ In Approach To Israel, Mideast Conflict

WASHINGTON, March 14 (JTA)--Sen. Jacob K. Javits said today that President Nixon differed with the State Department in his approach to Israel in the Middle East conflict. The President "has been excellent," the New York Republican told a panel of newsmen on the CBS program "Face the Nation" but the State Department has been "nudging too hard." Sen. Javits, a member of the powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, praised the President for taking a "strong stand" on the Middle East. On the other hand, he said, the attitude of the State Dept. was "let's wrap it up and get it over with for Arab paper promises." Javits noted that the President makes the final foreign policy decisions. He was not asked and did not comment on President Nixon's continued support of the Rogers Plan. He implied however that pressure was being exerted on Israel on territorial matters. He said the U.S. was putting Israel in a position where it must accept withdrawal from the Sinai "or else." He said, "We not only ask them to reply but what we want them to reply." He said, "We should reassure Israel that we are keeping our shirts on and that she is under no pressure or arm-twisting." He said, "We should be more understanding of Israel's position and history," adding, "not that Mrs. Meir will get all she asks."

Mrs. Meir Wins Overwhelming Vote Of Confidence On Her Peace Settlement Plan

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir won an overwhelming vote of confidence from her Cabinet colleagues today over an interview published in the Times of London yesterday in which she stated more specifically than ever before in public what Arab territories Israel intends to keep and what it was prepared to return in exchange for a peace settlement. Even the National Religious Party ministers who were initially critical of Mrs. Meir's assertion that Israel was prepared to give up most of the West Bank, retreated. They said they were only expressing "surprise" that the Premier had not seen fit to acquaint the Cabinet with the interview before its publication. Anticipating "questions" at

today's Cabinet session, Mrs. Meir distributed mimeographed transcripts of the interview she gave Times correspondent Louis Heren. In it she was adamant on Israel's permanent retention of East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip and the Sharm el-Sheikh strongpoint. She stressed that Israel must maintain a continued presence on the West Bank so that Arab forces can never again come within artillery range of Lydda Airport and Tel Aviv. But she stated specifically that Israel did not want to keep the Samaria and Judaea regions because it does not want to absorb its 600,000 Arab inhabitants.

Most effusive in praising Mrs. Meir today were Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, and Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, all of them members of her "inner circle." She also received congratulations from Tourist Minister Moshe Kol, Health Minister Victor Shemtov, and Absorption Minister Nathan Peled. Other ministers either offered congratulations or refrained from comment. The three NRP ministers were in an awkward position. They are more moderate than their party rank-and-file which demands Israel's permanent retention of the entire West Bank for religious reasons. The NRP executive at an emergency meeting today decided to ask Mrs. Meir for further clarification. They said the elucidations received so far were unsatisfactory. More serious political trouble loomed from the opposition camp where the Gahal Knesset faction filed a motion of no-confidence in the government over the statements made by Mrs. Meir in the Times interview. Gahal, comprised of the militant nationalist Herut faction and the Liberal Party, insists that Israel make no territorial concessions. Their motion is expected to be debated in the Knesset on Tuesday. (Mrs. Meir's remarks brought a swift reaction from Egypt, though not from Cairo. Dr. Ashraf Ghorbal, Egypt's top official in Washington said they "explain Israel's intention of expansion. They explain that it is not peace she was after, not freedom of navigation, but simply territory. She is creating a new map for Israel and she is asking us to negotiate our territory to create that map," he said.)

Joseph Sapir, leader of the Gahal Liberal faction called Mrs. Meir's remarks a "grave matter." He accused her of doing what she had explicitly promised not to do until peace negotiations were at a more advanced stage--draw a map." Mrs. Meir's aides claimed she had drawn no maps in the strictest sense of the word but had merely outlined one of several alternative plans that could serve as a basis for negotiations. They insisted that she said nothing that has not been stated by government officials before. Her remarks were viewed as a combination of plans advanced by Deputy Premier Allon and the "oral plank" offered by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in the Labor Party platform before the last elections. But most observers acknowledged that Mrs. Meir introduced a new concept when she proposed a mixed force to guarantee the demilitarization of the Sinai peninsula in which Israeli troops would participate and Egyptians could also be included. The participation of Israeli and Egyptian troops in a mixed peace-keeping force has never been suggested publicly before. Foreign Minister Abba Eban who will fly to Washington early this week for meetings with UN mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring and Secretary of State William F. Rogers, told the Cabinet today that Israel was still awaiting Egypt's reply to its latest note. He reviewed the political situation.

Reform Conversion Procedures Under Serious Consideration In High Official Circles

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA)--Basic reforms that would modify the rigid control exerted by Israel's Orthodox chief rabbinate in personal areas such as marriage, divorce and conversions are under serious consideration in high official circles. The need to reform conversion procedures has become a matter of special urgency in view of the still small but growing immigration of Jewish families from the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries, many of them with a non-Jewish spouse. The Sephardic Chief Rabbi, Itzhak Nissim, has drafted new conversion guidelines which reportedly would abolish the compulsory one-year waiting period that prospective converts must endure before their applications are acted upon. Rabbi Nissim also reportedly favors continuation of the "Vienna conversions" but under new, properly constituted rabbinical courts, under the supervision of a rabbi sent from Israel for the purpose. Most Soviet Jews enroute to Israel stop off at Vienna where non-Jewish members of their families--mainly wives--have been undergoing conversion by the local Bet Din (religious court) in order to guarantee the Jewish status of their children when they arrive in Israel. Israel's Orthodox establishment has split over whether to recognize the Vienna conversions.

The National Religious Party is ready to accept them in order to expedite immigration even if they do not satisfy all Orthodox demands. But the Israeli rabbinical courts have denounced the conversions and have charged that some of the rabbis performing them are not "qualified"--meaning Orthodox. Rabbi Nissim's proposals, to be submitted to the chief rabbinate council next Wednesday, may satisfy the rabbinical courts. But most observers here believe they are doomed to failure as long as the rabbis insist that conversions must comply strictly to Orthodox interpretation of halacha (religious law) and must be motivated by religious convictions. Meanwhile, a special "think tank" established by Israel's Labor Alignment has reportedly come up with proposals that would go a long way toward giving Israelis freedom of choice in religious matters. The team, which includes one rabbi, wants to amend Israeli laws to permit civil marriages for persons who wish them and to give non-religious persons recourse to civil courts for divorce. They also want to end the Orthodox monopoly of religious life in Israel by extending equal rights to Reform and Conservative Judaism. The proposals will be discussed at the forthcoming Labor Party convention. The religious establishment is expected to offer desperate opposition to these proposals.

U.S. Sounding Out Egypt, Saudi Arabia On Leasing Sharm el-Sheikh To Israel

JERUSALEM, March 14 (JTA)--The United States is feeling out the governments of Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the possibility of leasing to Israel the Sharm el-Sheikh strongpoint in southern Sinai or the off-shore islands of Sanafir and Tiran opposite Sharm el-Sheikh, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learns from reliable sources today. Such an arrangement would enable Israel to control the strategic Straits of Tiran giving its port of Eilat access to the sea while Egypt and Saudi Arabia retained sovereignty

Egypt under an arrangement with the Saudi government in June, 1967. They are presently uninhabited. The JTA also learned reliably that in his private conversation in Washington last Monday with Israeli President Zalman Shazar, President Nixon promised that "as long as I am President the flow of arms to Israel will continue and the taps will remain open." Nixon's pledge, the sources said, was not conditional on Israeli concessions in the conflict with the Arabs. Nixon was also said to have stressed to Shazar that Israel should accept international guarantees and troops, asking: "Is there a greater security for Israel than American troops along the border and a written American guarantee?"

Jewish Sponsored Liberal Arts School To Develop Sense Of Jewish Commitment

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA)--Touro College, a liberal arts school under Jewish sponsorship, will be opened in Manhattan next September. One of its objectives will be to create a sense of Jewish commitment among its students, according to an announcement by its sponsors today. Named for the American Jewish philanthropist who founded the first synagogue in the U.S. in Newport, R.I., the new school has been chartered by the New York State Board of Regents as a private four-year liberal arts college. Dr. Bernard Lander of Forest Hills, N.Y., a leading Jewish scholar, has been named its president. Another goal of the new college will be to "answer a need for smaller colleges which give students an opportunity to establish relationships with faculty and to eliminate the feeling of indifference that they are subjected to at a 'multi-university' campus," according to Eugene Hollander of New York, who left Hungary after the postwar Communist takeover of that country to settle in New York. He is treasurer of Bar-Ilan University, an Orthodox-sponsored American University in Israel.

Dr. Lander, who told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he is planning to leave his posts as professor of sociology at Hunter College and as senior research consultant at Notre Dame University to devote all of his time to his post as president of Touro College, said the new school will seek to fill the gap for young Jews in their Jewish outlook which many of them suffer when they enter secular colleges. The new school will be for men only, he said, adding that a women's division is being planned. The new college will be housed in a 12-story building deeded to it by the federal government after it was declared surplus property. Hollander said students will be able to obtain a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree in three rather than four years and that the traditional grading system has been modified so that students will receive a certification of course completion on the basis of honors, pass or fail. Academic excellence will be stressed by a series of departmental examinations by visiting scholars. He said the new school would seek to "meet the educational needs of large numbers of students who otherwise might be lost to the Jewish community and ultimately to the American democratic tradition." He indicated this referred to the phenomenon of Jewish youth who have committed themselves to anti-Jewish New Left positions. He expressed the hope that Touro College might serve as a prototype for similar schools in other major Jewish population centers.

Hollander also said that students will be required to take three core programs in the humanities, sciences and the Jewish heritage. Dr. Lander said that "studies in Hebrew language and literature, Jewish history, philosophy and culture will be available at a variety of levels of student achievement and will be included in the required core curriculum for all students." One year of study in Israel also will be a requirement, he reported, adding that plans were being made for creation of a "sister" school in Israel so that eventually students here will be able to do their required Israel study within the Touro college framework. Between 60 and 70 students are expected for the initial freshman class next fall, he said, and in line with the goal of a small college, 750 students is planned as the maximum enrollment for all four years. Tuition will be \$2,000 a year. Dr. Lander said that an "outstanding faculty," made up of committed Jews had been engaged. They include Dr. Milton Konvitz, the Cornell University expert on law and industrial relations; Dr. Alvin Radkowsky, the nuclear physicist; and Dr. Michael Wyshogrod, a philosopher and Jewish scholar. Finances to operate the college will come from private sources.

Australian Communist Party Leader Accuses Kremlin Of Circulating Anti-Semitic Tracts

VIENNA, March 14 (JTA)--A leading Australian Communist recently published an article here in which he lashed out at the Kremlin for "its violation of basic liberties" including its circulation of "anti-Semitic material" in the Soviet Union. Writing in the dissident Communist journal, Tagebuch, Eric Aarons, one of the leading members of the tiny 5,000 member Australian Communist party, termed Soviet propaganda as anti-Semitic "whether in the form of crude anti-religious propaganda or crude anti-Zionism." The Soviets responded to Aarons' article with a highly critical one in Novoe Vremya, a weekly international affairs periodical, accusing him, his brother Laurie and other Australian leaders of making "unfriendly and even hostile statements" about the Kremlin.

Jewish Leaders Express Sorrow Over Death Of Whitney M. Young Jr.

NEW YORK, March 14 (JTA)--American Jewish leaders expressed sorrow over the untimely death of Whitney M. Young, Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, who died of a heart attack at Lagos, Nigeria last Thursday at the age of 49. The prominent American civil rights leader, a major voice for moderation at a time of increasing Black militancy, was a long-standing friend of Israel. Funeral services will be in Kentucky on Wednesday. Last June, Young joined other prominent Black Americans in an appeal for United States support of Israel. He and 61 others signed a declaration urging the administration to provide Israel with the weapons it needed for defense. The appeal observed that Israel "with its impressive program of foreign technical aid, has contributed far more than any of its Arab enemies to the development of black African nations." The American Jewish Congress said: "We join the Black community and our fellow Americans of all races and religions in mourning the death of a great national leader of his people and of the American struggle for equal rights and human dignity." Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations said, "The sudden passing of Whitney M. Young Jr., has taken from us one of America's most dedicated fighters and articulate spokesmen in the cause of human justice." Philip E. Hoffman, American Jewish Committee president said: "His compassionate heart and innovative mind, his struggle to improve the lot of all Americans... will forever enshrine him in the memory of this nation and the world." Seymour Graubard, national chairman of B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, said: "Whitney Young died as he lived, working for his people and his country."

