

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Jewish Sources Say Report Of Record Number Of Jews Leaving USSR Is Exaggerated

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--Well informed Jewish sources here described as "exaggerated" a report from Moscow published in the Los Angeles Times today that Jews have been leaving the Soviet Union in record numbers since the beginning of 1971. The sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had absolutely no confirmation of such an exodus of Jews which Times correspondent Harry Trimborn called "unprecedented in the 63-year history of the Soviet Union." The Jewish sources said there may have been some increase in the number of exit permits granted Jews in recent days but observed that the situation was too fluid to bear out the Los Angeles Times report. According to that report, the Jewish emigrants "represent all age levels and virtually all occupational levels except the very highest, despite repeated public pronouncements by Soviet officials that Jews of military age and those holding important positions will not be permitted to leave." The Times attributed its information to "sources that cannot be identified" but said it represented "the latest and closest approximation of the actual figures of Soviet Jewish emigration ever disclosed publicly."

The Moscow sources said more than 470 Soviet Jews have been allowed to emigrate to Israel since the first of the year, "a figure far higher than the 92 recently disclosed in Jerusalem." According to sources in Russia, a total of 1,000 Jews were permitted to leave during all of last year. The Times report said the number of Soviet Jews departing for Israel has ranged from two to as many as 70 a day. A low point was reached during the world conference on Soviet Jewry held in Brussels on Feb. 23-26 which the Kremlin labeled an anti-Soviet provocation. But since the conference "there has been a tremendous upswing of Jews allowed to leave. The average of about 25 departures daily is based on a conservative tally of Soviet Jewish emigration in recent weeks," Trimborn reported. A Jewish source informed the JTA today that a Jewish theatrical youth group in Vilna, Lithuania has been barred from further activities by Soviet authorities without explanation. The source said the group functioned within the framework of the local trade union movement and had been permitted to tour Lithuanian cities but not to enter the Soviet-Union proper.

## Rogers, Critical Of Israel, Says Geographic Considerations Not Essential For Security

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers, in an apparent criticism of Israeli priorities in a Middle East settlement, said today that geographical considerations were not "essential for security." Speaking at a 45-minute news conference, Rogers said: "Some think of geography as best for security. We don't think geography is essential for security. In large measure, a political arrangement, an agreement understood by the parties and a willingness by the parties to maintain them are an equal consideration." At another point, noting the divergent positions on territories held by the Israelis and the Arabs, Rogers remarked: "We think there's a middle ground, and this can be negotiated. Security aspects do not require territory." The Secretary, whose 1969 plan for only "insubstantial" changes in the pre-Six-Day War borders has angered Israelis, stressed today that "we have never said Israel must withdraw from all territories."

Rogers suggested that the current Mideast "impasse" could be "overcome" by "strong" support for the peace mission of United Nations emissary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. "The differences are not as great as they seem," he said. "What is required, he said, is "a reciprocal agreement--signed, sealed and delivered." He stated: "If we don't make a settlement now, we'll be laying the seeds for a future war...A dangerous situation could develop that could lead to World War III." The Cabinet officer said he saw no opposition to a multi-nation peacekeeping force, in which the United States would play a "responsible" role. In that connection, he was asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent: "How can assurances by our government of safeguards to Israel be convincing to the Israelis when the majority leader in our Senate (Mike Mansfield of Montana) doubts the wisdom of American troops in a Middle East peacekeeping force and when our Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman (J.W. Fulbright of Arkansas) says that the intent of his U.S.-Israel security treaty proposal is to codify and limit American support for Israel?"

Rogers replied that he was unaware of Fulbright's codification plan, made public at a Mideast seminar here last fall. But the Secretary made the general comment that "I'm quite satisfied if we worked out an agreement the House and Senate would be acceptable of it." Rogers emphasized that there must be "adequate" arrangements for the disposition of the Sinai Peninsula and Sharm el-Sheikh. Regarding Sen. Mansfield's report last Saturday that Soviet troops have departed from surface-to-air missile sites along the Suez Canal, Rogers said he had no evidence of "substantial" Soviet evacuation. Rogers admitted that the Arab states are "suspicious of us" for America's alleged complicity in Israeli "intransigence;" but he noted that "Historically the United States has had friendly relations with the Arabs."

## Mobil Rescinds Boycott Of Israeli Products; Plans Ads In Jewish Newspapers

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--The Mobil Oil Corp. has rescinded all instructions to suppliers of its tanker fleet to refrain from furnishing the ships with products of Israeli or Jewish manufacture. The dramatic reversal of a policy that was widely regarded as capitulation to the Arab boycott of Israel, was disclosed today by Arnold Forster, chairman of the Anti-Boycott Committee of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Forster said that in an exchange of correspondence with Herman J. Schmidt, executive vice president of Mobil, the company declared that "effective immediately," suppliers' "only considerations in supplying products to our ships are that these products meet our traditionally high requirements of quality, availability and reasonableness of cost." In

other products. Mobil told Forster, its ship chandlers are now authorized to purchase Israeli or Jewish-made products. Forster said the new instructions have been sent to all of the company's suppliers. In addition, Mobil will take advertisements in some 100 Jewish publications explaining that "There is no Mobil 'Boycott.' There Never Was."

That there was a boycott was disclosed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency which reported last Feb. 3 that a Mobil spokesman in New York had conceded the accuracy of reports that Israeli or Jewish products were barred from its tankers calling at Libyan ports because the vessels would be subject to stiff fines or seizure by Libyan authorities if they were discovered. The spokesman admitted at the time that instructions banning the products were contained in letters sent to ship chandlers by Mobil Shipping, a British subsidiary of the oil company. Also affected by the ban were non-Israeli products bearing trademarks that the Libyans might regard as similar to a Star of David. Protests by pro-Israel circles in London caused Mobil to revise the letter to eliminate allegedly offensive references to products of "Jewish origin." But on Feb. 18, Rawleigh Warner Jr., chairman of the Mobil board and the company's chief executive officer indicated that the ban still applied to tankers calling at Libya because "when a company does business in a particular country it either must conform to the laws of that country or it must cease doing business in that country."

Warner's explanation was contained in a letter to Hedley Donovan, editor-in-chief of Time magazine denying a story in Time's Feb. 1 issue which implied that Mobil was complying with a "world-wide boycott of Israeli products." Mobil made a copy of the letter available to the JTA in advance of publication in Time. The Mobil board chairman stated in it that his company "observed only those boycotts which are the expressed policy of the U.S. government; we do not comply with a world-wide boycott of Israeli goods and never have." The specific charge against Mobil however was not that it complied with a world-wide boycott, but that it instructed its chandlers to keep Israeli products on its ships calling at Libya. Forster said the Anti-Boycott Committee of the Presidents Conference held a series of meetings with Mobil representatives which resulted in the reversal of the company's supplies policy.

### Government Given 62-0 Vote Of Confidence; Opposition Factions Stalk Out Of Knesset

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir's government won a 62-0 vote of confidence in the Knesset today following an uproarious debate on territorial issues in which proposals made by Mrs. Meir in an interview published in the London Times last Saturday were the main points of contention. The lopsided vote did not reflect the weight of the opposition faction whose members stalked out of the chamber during a bitter wrangle over voting procedures and cast no votes. But Knesset observers said that at most only 30 votes would have been cast against the government if there had been no walk-out. Mrs. Meir was clearly on the defensive, however, as she denied charges by the opposition Gahal and Free Centre factions that the territorial position she staked out for Israel in the Times' interview contained concessions she had no authority to make. Mrs. Meir devoted a large part of her statement to explaining the interview which she said, was published from notes and not a verbatim transcript. She said Times' deputy editor Louis Heren hardly once quoted her directly, sometimes changed the order of what was said and did not always bring out clearly the full significance of the points she made.

Mrs. Meir repeated the main points published in the interview: 1) Jerusalem will remain united and part of Israel; 2) Israel will not withdraw from the Golan Heights which dominate the Huleh Valley; 3) The Jordan River must never be open for Arab troops to cross; 4) Israel opposes an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank; and 5) Israel must have secure, recognized frontiers to be determined by negotiations and which cannot be substituted for by international guarantees. The Gahal faction and some members of the National Religious Party, one of Mrs. Meir's coalition partners, had objected to the Times interview on grounds that the Premier drew "maps" at a stage when it was dangerous and unnecessary to do so. Menachem Beigin, leader of Gahal's Herut faction, charged in the debate that Mrs. Meir had acted without legal or public authority to "re-partition the Homeland." He claimed that statements she made to the Times editor contradicted long standing pledges by her own Labor Party. He referred to her published assertion that Israel "shall not leave the Golan Heights" because "we have paid something for it" and asked rhetorically, "Have we paid only for the Golan and not for Judaea and Samaria?"

Beigin also criticized Mrs. Meir for offering to negotiate new frontiers with Jordan that would not necessarily be marked by the Jordan River. He said if Jordanian soldiers did not cross the river in the future, saboteurs would and the Jordanian police would not hold them back. Shmuel Tamir, of the Free Centre, one of the two factions that introduced no-confidence motions, accused Mrs. Meir of leaning toward the Rogers Plan calling for only minor territorial adjustments which both the government and the Knesset had rejected. Haim Tzadok, speaking for Mrs. Meir's Labor Alignment, defended the Premier. He said the government had never declared that it would refuse to give up any territory. The Knesset walk-out was precipitated by a dispute over whether to have a roll-call vote or a secret ballot. Beigin demanded a secret vote and his party stalwarts shouted catcalls, drummed the floor and pounded their desks while Justice Minister Yacob Shimshon Shapira tried to adjudicate the matter. When the Knesset decided to vote on how to vote, the Gahal faction rose and walked out of the chamber, followed by the Free Centre and the Rafi State List, both splinter opposition parties. Twelve MKs abstained from the final vote. They included some members of the NRP, the Agudat Israel and the pro-Moscow Rakach Communist faction.

### Pincus: Solution Of Social Problems Incentive For Immigration Of Jews

TEL AVIV, March 16 (JTA)--Jewish Agency chairman Aryeh L. Pincus, who disclosed yesterday that a quarter of a million Israeli Jews live on a poverty level, said here today that world Jewry must contribute its ideas and know-how as well as financial support to help solve Israel's social gap. Pincus addressed a press conference prior to leaving for Canada. He said the education funds of the Jewish Agency and the United Jewish Appeal were major tools in this endeavor, but much more was needed. Pincus said that a solution of the social problems would provide an incentive for Jewish immigration

from certain countries. He said 14,000 families are expected to arrive as immigrants this year, a third of them from Western countries. Pincus said about 10,000 immigrants are expected from the United States and Canada. He said there was no certainty as to how many might be permitted to leave Russia. He also noted a growing immigration trend among Jews in Latin America where many are caught up in social upheavals and are suffering economically. According to Pincus, the Zionist Organization's membership drive is expected to produce 800,000- one million registered members in time for the next Zionist Congress. He said the drive was having notable success among youth. He said that in France alone some 8,000 youths have been registered as members of the Zionist Organization on an individual basis. Pincus said Zionist efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews were paralleled by a similar effort for Jews in Arab countries. He said committees have been working in behalf of these Jews in several capitals.

### Sisco Meets With Conference Of Presidents Leaders In Exchange Of Mideast Views

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco met here today for two-and-a-half hours with the two vice chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in what was described as "a useful exchange of view on the Middle East scene, and the American role in current peace efforts." The description was given by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Federation and Jacob Stein, president of the United Synagogue of America, who represented the Presidents Conference. They were accompanied by Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Jewish leadership group. No additional details of the discussion were available.

### Relatives Of Soviet Jewish Prisoners Rebuffed In Effort To Confer With Official

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--Eighteen relatives of Soviet Jewish prisoners were rebuffed in an attempt yesterday to speak with an official of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee or of the Supreme Soviet, according to authoritative reports from Moscow reaching here today. The 18 Jews approached the Central Committee building but were not admitted. They left a letter, signed by them, protesting the nine-month detention without trial of their arrested relatives. Trials were announced twice but were never held, they noted. The writers demanded the prisoners' immediate release, as their only "crime" was a desire to migrate to Israel. No names were immediately available.

### First Unemployment Relief Bill Submitted To Knesset; Cost-Of-Living Index Drops

JERUSALEM, March 16 (JTA)--Israel's first unemployment-relief bill was submitted to the Knesset yesterday by Labor Minister Yosef Almogi. It calls for relief of up to IL30 (\$8.75) a day for up to 138 days a year for male wage-earners aged 18 to 65 and women aged 18 to 60. Those accepting payment under the plan would have to be available for any "suitable" work offered by the Labor Exchange. In a related development, the cost-of-living index dropped one-tenth of a point in February to 114. The dip resulted from end-of-season sales of cheap clothing, partly offset by increases in poultry, meat and meat-products prices.

### Israel's Consul General Conveys Condolences To Whitney Young's Family

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--Rehavam Amir, Israel's Consul General in New York, today conveyed his government's condolences to the family of Whitney M. Young Jr. who died in Nigeria last Thursday. Amir represented Israel at Mr. Young's funeral services which were held at Riverside Church in Manhattan.

### 'The Rothschilds' Receives Nine Nominations For Tony Award

NEW YORK, March 16 (JTA)--"The Rothschilds," the musical based on Frederic Morton's history of the banking family, received nine nominations today for the 1970-71 Antoinette Perry (Tony) Awards for Broadway excellence. Only "Company," with music by Stephen Sondheim, received more. "The Rothschilds" was nominated in the categories of musical play, libretto (Sherman Yellen), musical score (Jerry Bock), lyrics (Sheldon Harnick), musical star (Hal Linden, as Mayer Amschel Rothschild), featured musical actor (Keene Curtis, in four roles), musical direction and choreography (Michael Kidd for both) and scenic design (John Bury). "Two by Two," the musicalization of Clifford Odets' "The Flowering Peach" with Danny Kaye as Noah and music by Richard Rodgers, received only one nomination--for Walter Williamson as featured actor. Other Jewish personalities not nominated included Neil Simon, author of "The Gingerbread Lady"; Sid Caesar, co-star of "Four on a Garden," and Jack Gilford, co-star of the revival of "No, No, Nanette."

### Heren Says Mrs. Meir Is A Moderate; Withdrawal Would Cause Government To Collapse

LONDON, March 16 (JTA)--Louis Heren, the Times' deputy editor whose interview with Premier Golda Meir published last Saturday disclosed Israel's minimal territorial demands, said today that Mrs. Meir must be regarded as a "moderate" by Israeli standards. Heren indicated that while Mrs. Meir's position may be considered intransigent by the Arabs and others, it is moderate compared to the demands of Israel's chief opposition faction, Gahal. The writer said that Israel "is arguably a democracy... (and) unlike any Arab government, the government in Jerusalem must be guided by public opinion." He observed that Mrs. Meir has less room for maneuver than Premier Edward Heath of Britain or President Nixon. "Apart from her fervent belief in the wisdom and necessity of her policy, her government would not survive one week if she agreed to withdraw Israeli troops from the strong positions captured in 1967," he said. He added that at least 70 percent of the Israeli electorate supported Mrs. Meir's territorial policies though they were unacceptable to Gahal and the National Religious Party.

### JDL To 'Legally Harass' Soviet Officials In Washington Area

WASHINGTON, March 16 (JTA)--Rabbi Meir Kahane, Jewish Defense League national chairman, today told 300 students at George Washington University that the JDL will "legally harass" Soviet officials in the Washington area. He also revealed he had written to Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin, inviting him to speak at the March 21 mass meeting for Soviet Jewry in Lafayette Park.

