

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

Friday, March 26, 1971

No. 59

Dismissed Rabbi Questions Procedures On Engagement Of Successor

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--The board of trustees of a wealthy Manhattan Reform congregation has approved appointment of a rabbi to succeed one dismissed last month in a dispute over his long hair and controversial views under procedures which the dismissed rabbi has described as questionable, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today. The board of Congregation Shaarey Tefila approved, by secret vote at a meeting on March 17, the appointment of Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum, who is currently rabbi of the Village Temple, another Manhattan Reform congregation. He was named to succeed Rabbi Philip Schechter, who resigned on March 2. Members of the Shaarey Tefila congregation voted at a stormy meeting on Feb. 16 in effect not to extend Rabbi Schechter's unwritten contract. Rabbi Schechter contended he was dismissed by the board because he tried to "modernize procedures" of the 125-year-old synagogue. The 144-135 vote at the Feb. 16 meeting was on a resolution calling on the board to reconsider a Jan. 31 decision not to renew the contract of the 35-year-old rabbi. More than 500 congregants were present but many could not vote because they were in the classification of associate and junior members who have no voting rights.

Rabbi Malcolm Stern, chairman of the placement committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform rabbinical group, told the JTA that Rabbi Tattelbaum's quick appointment was on the basis of "the equivalent of an in-congregational promotion." Under CCAR placement rules, availability of a pulpit is reported in the CCAR newsletter, which is circulated to all CCAR members who may then apply. The rules require that the outgoing rabbi approve such listing of the pulpit he has left. However, rabbis serving as assistants in a congregation may be engaged to become the senior rabbi without going through the usual procedures. Rabbi Tattelbaum was an assistant to Rabbi Bernard Bamberger at Shaarey Tefila from 1962 to 1965 when he was named to the Village Temple pulpit. Rabbi Stern, asked about the application of the in-congregational promotion rule to a rabbi who had not been in service to Shaarey Tefila for nearly eight years, said that the appointment was made on the basis of treating Rabbi Tattelbaum as meriting the "equivalent" of an in-congregational promotion because of his prior service to Shaarey Tefila's pulpit. Rabbi Stern said that there were precedents for that procedure in the appointments of Rabbi Jerome Davidson at Temple Beth-El in Great Neck, N.Y. and Rabbi Jeffrey Stiffman of Temple Shaare Emet in St. Louis.

Rabbi Stern was asked why the CCAR newsletter of March had listed the availability of the Shaarey Tefila pulpit when the CCAR office knew that negotiations were then underway by Shaarey Tefila officials to hire Rabbi Tattelbaum. Rabbi Stern replied that it was standard procedure to list open pulpits as soon as they became open, which that of Shaarey Tefila did when Rabbi Schechter resigned on March 2 and that the CCAR placement committee was not involved in the approach of Shaarey Tefila officials to Rabbi Tattelbaum whom they knew from his prior service. Rabbi Schechter flatly denied he had given Rabbi Stern his approval on the availability of the Shaarey Tefila pulpit. He told the JTA that he had proposed to Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, CCAR president, that Shaarey Tefila be blacklisted by the CCAR for its rule banning congregational voting rights to members under 35 and that Rabbi Gittelsohn had indicated that the problem would be worked out. Told about the denial, Rabbi Stern said he called Rabbi Schechter immediately after his March 2 resignation and that Rabbi Schechter gave his approval, subject to his qualification over the non-voting rule for younger congregants. At the time of the congregational vote on his dismissal, Rabbi Schechter was on a leave of absence with full pay until the end of his first year. He told the JTA today he resigned on March 2 because he had been told that if he did not, he might have to sue the congregation to collect the salary due him through the end of June.

100 Jews March To Presidium Of Supreme Soviet Demanding Justice For Trial Victims

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--A group of 100 Jews marched to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow today and presented a petition demanding justice for the Jews scheduled for trial in Leningrad, Riga and Kishinev, according to a telephoned report from the Soviet capital. The caller was Michael Sand, a Jewish journalist and scholar specializing in Persian literature, who earlier this week interrupted a presentation by 60 Soviet Jewish leaders in the Choral Synagogue and declared that they were apologists for the regime and not representative of Soviet Jewry. Sand reported today that the 100 petitioners asked that the accused Jews be allowed to engage foreign attorneys and that the trials be held in open court and accessible to foreign newsmen. He said five of the protestors were received by a representative of the Supreme Soviet, who promised that their petition would be forwarded to the proper official. Today's demonstration was the fifth in a series of unprecedented actions by Soviet Jews over the past two months. Most recently, on March 10, more than 100 Soviet Jews sat-in inside the Presidium building.

Largest Group Of Soviet Jews Arrive In Israel; Riga Trial Set For April 5

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA)--The largest group of Soviet Jews ever to arrive in Israel landed at Lydda Airport this morning in a special El Al jet. Western newsmen at the airport estimated their number at 150. The previous record, set a few weeks ago, was an estimated 110. Today's contingent included Jews from Moscow, Kiev, Riga and for the first time in a long time, Kharkov. The eight Kharkov Jews who arrived today said three more would be coming in the next few days. Meanwhile, there were reports today that the Riga trial of Jews, reported earlier to be scheduled for April 15, has been set for April 5. The defendants will be Ruth Aleksandrovich, Arkady Shpilberg, Boris Maftsier and Mikhail Shepshelovich. Maftsier reportedly has submitted to official pressures and agreed to sign a confession to anti-Soviet activities.

The Riga Jews who arrived today included Yiddish poet Mendel Kleinstein, who on touching ground recited a poem of his recalling his waiting for this day: "And it did come at last. For 2,000 years have I envied the doves who can fly freely wherever they wish, and I was caged in the cage. Now I am free again." Chaim Spivakowski, a Kharkov economist, said the Jews of that city had never believed they would be able to leave the Soviet Union. "It was a dream," he said. "Several people did send in applications but never received replies. Now that some people did receive permits there will be, no doubt, a large wave of applications from Kharkov Jews who wish to come to Israel." Spivakowski added, however, that the secret police have increased their activities in the Kharkov Jewish community, searching the homes of emigration applicants and confiscating Hebrew books and pamphlets. The Kiev arrivals said a young Jew named Leonid Polishinski had filed for emigration and for cancellation of his citizenship but was recruited into the Army.

They said he subsequently filed again, but has received no reply. Another 20 or so Ukrainian Jews, they said, recently applied for emigration in order to live with their brethren in Israel--instead of for the Soviet-approved reason of family reunion--but have not yet received replies. On the positive side, the Kiev arrivals said, some 40 Kiev Jews were invited to the Interior Ministry and advised that their applications had been approved. Fevush Zlotkin of Riga said his 46-year-old sister, Assia Levin, was arrested a few months ago with other Jews, all charged with "subversive actions"--studying Hebrew and singing Hebrew songs. His sister was later released, Zlotkin said, but has to report for daily interrogation at the police station, where she is pressured to name other "subversives" or "be put into a mental asylum." Zlotkin said there were some indications his sister might be used as a witness against her fellow Jews.

Vexing Problem Of Who Is A Jew Confounds Arab Terrorist Who Flunks Test

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA)--When is a Jew not a Jew? When he is a Palestinian terrorist posing as a Jew in order to get into Israel. Among the four terrorists captured Monday in the major encounter on the Golan Heights in which four of his fellows were killed, there was one who contended that he was a Yemenite Jew who had concluded that the best way to get a piece of the good life in Israel was to pose as a terrorist and cross the border. This he had done, complete with rifle and explosives. The Israeli officer in charge of the four prisoners decided to test him. First he asked him to read from a Hebrew Bible, but the man opened it from the left. Then the officer asked him to recite some Hebrew words, which he was unable to do. Finally the officer asked him to complete the sentence beginning "Shema Yisroel...." but he could not do it and quickly confessed.

Report El Fatah Spreading Hashish in Israel to Undermine Nation's Health

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--The district pharmacist of the Health Ministry, Abraham Turnau, claims he has been reliably informed that El Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian organizations, is trying to spread the use of hashish throughout Israel to undermine the nation's health. Turnau, lecturing at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, said the Fatah sometimes supplied hashish without charge to speed up its infiltration. He said the names of 12,000 narcotics addicts in Israel were known to the authorities but that the actual total is an estimated 36,000-48,000. Unlike addicts in other countries, those in Israel use only hashish. In its pure form it is not habit-forming, but pushers often add opium, making the mixture addictive, the pharmacist noted. The Knesset passed today an amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Law which provides stiffer penalties for narcotics dealers. The amendment also empowers the Minister of Health to add any drug he sees fit to the list of prohibited drugs. For the first time, LSD was declared illegal.

Report Jordanian Premier Resigns; Advocate Of Tough Policy Against Terrorists

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--Reports reaching the West Bank from Amman today said that Jordanian Premier Wasfi Tal has tendered his resignation and that King Hussein has accepted it. Tal, who succeeded Ahmed Touqan last fall, reportedly advised King Hussein that he thought his resignation would pave the way for a resolution of the country's financial crisis and a reconciliation with Egypt. Arab affairs experts noted that Tal has been one of the pillars of King Hussein's tough policy against the Palestinian terror organizations--a policy that has led to the suspension of the annual \$105 million subsidy to those organizations by Libya and Kuwait and the alienation of Egypt from Jordan. The Cairo government recently withdrew its representative to the Pan-Arab Control Committee in Jordan. Gen. Salim Hilmy, as an expression of displeasure with Amman. Arab affairs experts said today that while King Hussein might sacrifice his Premier, he was not likely to change his policy.

Chief Rabbinate Council Issues Decisions Designed To Ease Conversion To Judaism

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--The Chief Rabbinate Council issued two decisions yesterday designed to ease conversions to Judaism. The Council waived the one-year waiting period for immigrants from countries with no recognized rabbinical courts and approved a shorter conversion process. The decisions were expected to be chiefly beneficial to non-Jewish partners in mixed marriages and to Soviet immigrants. Of the latter the Council declared: "For dozens of years our brethren in the Soviet Union have been subjected to a regime of spiritual oppression aimed at uprooting them from their Jewish heritage and affinity to Israel. Their awakening over the past two years and their heroic struggle for aliya to the Holy Land (are) among the great phenomena of our generation." The Council statement stressed that the new decisions referred only to procedure and not to the substance of the conversions, which remain under halachic (Jewish law) jurisdiction. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned, however, that the Chief Rabbinate has in fact agreed to make concessions on matters of substance as well, since otherwise the new rulings would be almost pointless. This follows, it was learned, heavy pressure from several Labor Alignment members of the Cabinet, including Premier Golda Meir. The Alignment reportedly threatened serious legislative measures against the Rabbinate if it did not yield on the conversion process for non-Jewish spouses and children of immigrants.

Survey Shows Many Jews, Non-Jews, in Air Force Deeply Sympathetic Toward Israel

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 25 (JTA)--A survey of more than 3,000 Air Force officers, enlisted men, and chaplains shows they expressed a deep sympathy and understanding of Israel's military position in the Middle East. At the same time, they expressed a moral dilemma, like the rest of the nation, regarding the Vietnam War. These were the findings of Rabbi Alvan D. Rubin of Temple Israel after a nine-day tour of five Air Force bases in Alaska as part of an interfaith research team for the Air Force Chief of Chaplains. Rabbi Rubin, who serves on the National Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of the Jewish Welfare Board, said that in his conversations, he found both Christian and Jewish military personnel admiring the "guts" of Israel in standing up for its rights in the Middle East. He said that many an Air Force member told him that, "We know Israel is the only country that we can count on." At a special service with a congregational group in Anchorage, Alaska, Rabbi Rubin said that Jewish military personnel and their families expressed the same concerns as the rest of the Jewish community. He said that Israel gave them a new sense of pride, "particularly since it opened up a dialogue and rapport with their Christian colleagues." These Jewish families, Rabbi Rubin said, were proud of the Jewish campaign to help Soviet Jews. They were also concerned about the future of Jewish education, he said. "They felt the need for Jewish education due to their extreme isolation. I was the first rabbi they encountered for months." Rabbi Rubin, a veteran of the chaplaincy program, said that a drastic change has taken place in the approach towards this work. "It is no longer only a counseling program, but an aggressive teacher and searcher of the moral confrontations facing society as seen through the teachings of religion." Referring to the Vietnam War, he reported that "like most Americans, the military on these bases were engaged in a series of discussions and study programs on various moral dilemmas confronting our nation... The war gnaws at their conscience."

Mrs. Dayan Says Israel Is Being Treated As A Conquered Nation

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA)--"We've made the biggest adjustment that any nation which was victorious (can make) and we're being treated as if we were conquered. We are the only country that is imposed upon to give up anything without having any security" in return. Mrs. Ruth Dayan, wife of Israel's Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan, made this statement to CBS News correspondent Mike Wallace in a wide-ranging interview heard in two parts yesterday and today on "Mike Wallace at Large" on the CBS Radio Network. In addition to discussing the question of Israel's willingness to make territorial adjustments, Wallace asked Mrs. Dayan if she feared violence in the wake of the breakdown of the Middle East cease-fire. "I'm not a political person," she pointed out. I spoke to my husband and I asked him the same question - "What's happening in Israel?" - and he said: "Well, it's springtime and we don't want a war." Nobody can predict what is going to happen tomorrow. You see, if it were up to us, we'd have peace a long time ago." Mrs. Dayan's definition of peace in the Middle East "especially for the Arab countries." She said that the Arabs came to Israel when her grandfather started the first factory in the country. She added that the Israelis bought land and developed it from nothing. "This is all forgotten," she said. "This is not taking the country from anybody!"

Allon Confirms Asking Lord George Brown To Probe Possibility Of UAR-Israel Meetings

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA)--Deputy Premier Yigal Allon confirmed yesterday that he had asked Lord George Brown, former Foreign Secretary in the British Labor government, to put out feelers to Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser early last year on the chance for top-level Egyptian-Israeli meetings. Allon emphasized that he had not asked Lord George Brown to make similar contact with Jordan's King Hussein. The Israeli official made these disclosures in the course of comments keyed to the publication in London next Monday of Lord George Brown's political memoirs.

Jewish Agency Seeking Hotel Space in Vienna To Accommodate Influx Of Russian Jews

TEL AVIV, March 25 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency's immigration department disclosed today that it was seeking additional hotel space in Vienna to accommodate Russian Jews arriving there on their way to Israel. It also said that it would expand its staff because the larger number of Jews arriving from the Soviet Union required additional personnel to receive them. Department head Uzi Narkiss is presently in Vienna to survey the needs, Jewish Agency sources said. "The preparations in Vienna are under control," he noted. "Should there be an influx of Jews from Russia we shall be able to handle them." Narkiss said he was moved when Soviet Jews, arriving in the city, toasted to the life of Israel and when many cried remembering the millions of Jews that are still in the Soviet Union.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN**Rogers Appears To Rally Senators Behind His Views On Israel, Mideast Situation**

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers seemed to have gained the support today of many Senators for his proposals to bring about a peace settlement in the Middle East, following his appearance on the Senate floor where he answered questions dealing with the principle of Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories. Rogers was smiling broadly when he left the Senate chamber. The Secretary had asked to appear before a closed Senate to present the State Department's position on the Middle East situation. Despite the fact that Rogers was supposed to address the full Senate only 67 of the 100 Senators were present. The Secretary's appearance followed a heated debate in the Senate on Tuesday during which a number of Senators attacked Rogers' plan calling for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders and others spoke out in defense. Observers here felt that Rogers' appearance today was an effort to avert a polarization between pro-Israel and anti-Israel views in the Senate. Sen. Hugh Scott, Republican of Penn., reported that Rogers had given a "masterful presentation and was favorably received." Sen. Mike J. Mansfield, Democrat of Montana and Senate Majority Leader, praised Rogers' "excellent statements" saying he answered all questions and did an "outstanding job." Sen. J. William Fulbright, Democrat of Mo., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a long-time critic of Israel, said that Rogers' plan is "very close" to the one proposed by former Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion, that Israel return all occupied territories except the Golan Heights and Jerusalem.

