

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Orthodox Jews Worship in Private Home While Awaiting New Synagogue Structure

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--For the past 10 weeks a small group of Orthodox Jews has gotten together in the home of Henry Piszarz to hold Sabbath services. Piszarz, who is blind, resides with his wife, Anita, and their eight-year-old son, Leslie, in Co-op City in The Bronx. When the Piszarzes learned that Ahavath Torah Synagogue, destroyed last summer by arson, could not find facilities to relocate in Co-op City where many of the congregants moved, the family offered to convert their living room into a synagogue. Rabbi David Toiv, spiritual leader of the congregation, released this story to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said that the synagogue, which served the community for more than 25 years, had previously been located on Mt. Eden Ave. in a two-family building. The fire which destroyed the synagogue also damaged five Torah scrolls. After the fire, Mayor John V. Lindsay initiated a restoration campaign and personally presented Rabbi Toiv with \$100. Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, presented the rabbi with a Torah scroll that survived the Nazi holocaust in Romania.

The restoration drive provided for temporary repairs of the synagogue at the Mt. Eden Ave. building. While some of the younger congregants continued to worship there the older members, including those who were disabled, found the distance between Co-op City and the synagogue too far for them to travel. Mrs. Piszarz told the JTA that in order to accommodate the older congregants, she and her husband opened their home for Sabbath worship. "Although the synagogue itself is a brisk 10 minute walk or a short bus ride from where we live, many of the congregants, including my husband, found they could not make it, especially on cold winter mornings," Mrs. Piszarz said. "There is no other synagogue in our area of Co-op City and even many of the younger people were being denied facilities here." Rabbi Toiv said that despite all efforts to continue using the Mt. Eden Ave. facility for worshipping, "the synagogue is about to close its doors again due to continuous incidents of vandalism and the shift in population." He said that efforts are being made to find suitable facilities for the synagogue in Co-op City, the largest co-op in the world and where some 40,000 of the 60,000 residents are Jewish.

Rabbi Toiv related that more than 500 families signed petitions urging Co-op City authorities to provide Ahavath Torah with facilities so that it may continue to serve The Bronx. "The worshippers are anxiously looking forward to occupying a place they can call their own and begin serving the dynamic growing community of Co-op City," he said. Rabbi Toiv stated that after the petitions were submitted, George Shechter, vice-president of the co-op, reported that facilities will be made available as soon as possible. Rabbi S. Gurary, executive director of the Lubavitcher Yeshiva, hailed the relocation of the synagogue and announced that he is making available all the resources of the Yeshiva to aid Ahavath Torah Synagogue. Mrs. Piszarz said that until facilities are found in her section of Co-op City for a synagogue, those worshippers who used her apartment for Sabbath services will begin to conduct services next Saturday in temporary quarters in a storage room in Building 19. "Our apartment is just too cramped to accommodate all those who want to worship," she said. "The men have to worship in the living room and the women in the kitchen." Right now, the congregation is split into two segments but soon, Rabbi Toiv said, "all of us will be reunited."

## 3,000 in Peaceful Rally For Soviet Jews; Plan Phone-In To Tie Up Soviet Lines

MONTREAL, March 28 (JTA)--More than 3,000 Jews, representing all political and religious segments of the local Jewish population, demonstrated today on behalf of Soviet Jewry in front of the Soviet Consulate. More than half the demonstrators were students. Some them were draped in chains, symbolizing the chains borne by Soviet Jewry. Others carried banners reading "Let My People Go" and "Freedom Now." Among the participants were Jewish veterans of Canada's armed forces dressed in uniform and wearing their medals and ribbons, and members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the Canadian Jewish Congress, Federated Zionist organizations, B'nai B'rith and women's organizations. Monroe Aweish, president of the CJC, read the text of a letter he had sent to Leonid I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, asking for freedom of emigration for those Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union and full religious and cultural freedom for those Jews who wish to remain. Prof. Irving Cutler, professor of law at York University, demanded that the USSR grant to its Jews the same rights it grants to other national minority groups. It was announced that a 72-hour vigil will begin outside the Soviet Consulate on Tuesday, the day the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union opens in Moscow, and plans were also announced for a week-long (March 29-April 2) phone-in to tie up the telephone lines of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, the Soviet Consulate in Montreal, and the offices of Aeroflot and Intourist.

## Rogers, Conference Of Presidents Delegation Exchange Views On Mideast

WASHINGTON, March 28 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers invited a delegation representing the Conference Of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations to his office Friday for an exchange of views on the Middle East, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. The 90-minute meeting followed by a day Rogers' appearance at a closed meeting of the Senate to explain his Mideast policies in view of mounting criticism within the Senate. A spokesman for the Presidents Conference told the JTA that the talk with Rogers included a "comprehensive review of how we got to the present state of the Jarring talks and our different views on the next steps required to keep them going." (United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring returned Thursday to his Swedish ambassadorial post in Moscow as the Arab-Israeli talks under his auspices remained deadlocked. Dr. Jarring's return to Moscow was described as temporary, in order to spend the Easter holiday with his family but no date was set for his return to New York. UN sources said he would return whenever there was an indica-

tion that the two parties were ready to resume substantive negotiations.) The spokesman for the Presidents Conference told the JTA that Rogers emphasized to the group that the U.S. has no intention of trying to impose a peace settlement on the Mideast. The Secretary of State said however that the U.S. has its views of where future boundaries should be located and has expressed them.

But Rogers made it clear that there would be no military or economic pressure on Israel to compel it to accept the American views, the spokesman said. Rogers also said the U.S. feels the next step is up to Israel to come forward with a counter proposal to Egyptian boundary proposals. The Egyptians have demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal to the boundaries of June 5, 1967. The spokesman said there was general agreement at the meeting that the U.S. was entitled to credit for persuading Egypt to continue the cease-fire and to accept the principle of peace talks with Israel. But there was disagreement as to whether or not international guarantees were a substitute for geographic security, the spokesman said. The delegation that met with Rogers consisted of Jacob Stein, of the United Synagogue of America and Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, co-chairman of the Presidents Conference; Max Fisher, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; Philip Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee; Albert E. Arent, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, past president of Hadassah; Jacob Zimmerman, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; Herman Edelsberg, director of the international Council of B'nai B'rith; and Yehuda Heliman, executive director of the Presidents Conference.

### Mrs. Meir Calls For Immediate Debate On New Elections; Opposition Charges Trickery

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA)—Premier Golda Meir, confident that her government enjoys overwhelming support in the Knesset, has called for immediate debate on a private bill introduced recently by Gahal opposition leader Menachem Beigin for dissolution of parliament and new elections. Mrs. Meir told her Cabinet colleagues today that she would welcome a debate this week, prior to the Knesset's Passover recess, and that she has so informed Knesset Speaker Reuben Barkat. Mrs. Meir also disclosed that she has suggested to Gahal that Beigin cut short his current trip abroad in order to move his bill for debate. Gahal's executive is scheduled to consider her suggestion at a meeting tomorrow night. But opposition circles charged today that Mrs. Meir was resorting to trickery. They said that under present circumstances the Beigin bill was sure to be defeated and under Knesset rule, no similar bill could be introduced until the winter term begins next October. That would leave the government free from the threat of new elections at a time convenient to the opposition while the government could move for new elections at any time it deemed favorable, they said. Furthermore, defeat of Beigin's measure would considerably strengthen the government's position in negotiations with foreign governments. Gahal circles said Beigin had expected his bill to come up for debate only in the normal order of priority which would bring it to the floor in May. Mrs. Meir's secretary about the outcome stems from the 62-0 vote of confidence won by her government in a Knesset debate earlier this month on the issue of territorial policy.

### British Government Criticized For Advocating Principle of Big Four Guarantees

LONDON, March 28 (JTA)—A prominent Israeli military commentator sharply criticized the British government here last night for advocating the principle of Big Four guarantees for Israel in lieu of territorial security. Maj. Gen. Chaim Herzog, who served as the first Israeli military governor of the West Bank in 1967, delivered the keynote address at the 70th annual conference of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, attended by 750 delegates and a large number of guests. "We are offered guarantees but we have learned of their uselessness by bitter experience," declared Gen. Herzog who was born in Ireland. "British spokesman are enthusiastically in favor of such guarantees being accepted by Israel but for the British to urge others to put their trust in guarantees is sheer hypocrisy," he said. Herzog recalled that the American and British navies stood by when Egypt declared its blockade of the Straits of Tiran in 1967. He also recalled that despite close relations between Britain and Jordan, the British government was quick to announce that it would not interfere when Jordan faced a life-and-death crisis during last September's civil war with the Palestinian guerrillas. "So now British spokesmen step forward and recommend that we accept international guarantees," Herzog said. Moshe Shamir, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department in Britain, reported that there were now 80,000 British Jews in Israel. He said there was marked progress in emigration from Britain.

### Soldier Captured By Egyptians Last May, Returned To Israel

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA)—An Israeli soldier severely wounded when he was captured in an Egyptian commando raid across the Suez Canal in May, 1970, was returned to Israel today under Red Cross auspices to undergo medical treatment. Reports said Sgt. Yair Dori's right arm had been amputated at the elbow, there were wound scars all over his body and the sight of one of his eyes was seriously impaired. A hospital bulletin on his condition will be published later. Dori had been hospitalized in Egypt and underwent several operations. He was released in exchange for an Egyptian lieutenant Mohammed Hassan Salameh, who was wounded and captured during the Israeli raid on Shadwan Island in the Gulf of Suez in January, 1970. The Egyptian was reported to be fully recovered. Chief of Staff Gen. Haim Bar Lev was on hand at the Ismailia exchange point when the exchange was effected to welcome Dori. The soldier was flown by helicopter to a hospital. He was the first Israeli prisoner-of-war to be repatriated in many months. Egyptian authorities had consistently rejected Israeli demands to return at least the injured POWs.

### Israel Must Allocate More Resources For Research In Environmental Protection

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)—Israel must allocate more resources for research in environmental protection, an Israeli expert on environmental science said here tonight. Dr. Alberto Wachs, of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa addressed the 13th annual conference on science and technology sponsored by the American Technion Society.

## Soviets Resort To Arrests And Issuing Exit Visas To Remove Jews From Scene

LONDON, March 28 (JTA)--Soviet authorities are resorting to two methods--arrests and stepped up issuance of exit visas--to remove Jewish and other dissidents from the scene while the 24th Soviet Communist Party Congress is in session next week, reliable sources reported today from Moscow. The purpose is to avoid incidents that could embarrass the Soviet government while it plays host to Communist delegates from all over the world, the sources said. The Congress opens in Moscow on Tuesday. A group variously estimated at 12-31 Jews and other dissidents was arrested in Moscow last Thursday and sentenced to 10-15 day jail terms on charges of "petty hooliganism." They had been demonstrating at the office of the chief Soviet prosecutor Roman A. Rudenko, for the release of 20 Jews under detention and reportedly awaiting trial in Leningrad, Riga and Kishinev in connection with last June's alleged aerial hijack plot. Most of them have been in detention for more than nine months without trial--the maximum period allowed under the Soviet penal code--and without access to family or friends. On the other hand, reliable sources in Moscow reported that more than 100 Jews who staged a sit-in for emigration rights at the offices of the Supreme Soviet on March 10, have been promised by Soviet authorities that they would be allowed to emigrate soon to Israel.

Other reports said exit papers have been issued to many of the 17 Jews who signed a letter to the Soviet Interior Minister in February warning that they would defend themselves unless the authorities protected them from physical harassment which they claimed to have suffered after applying for visas. But one of the signers, Vladimir Slepak, was jailed for 15 days after Thursday's demonstration at Rudenko's office. Another Jew sent to jail was Mikhail Zand who picketed a pro-Soviet meeting of Jewish religious and lay leaders in Moscow's Great Synagogue last week. Zand told Western newsmen at the time that the participants in the meeting who spoke bitterly against Israel and Zionist interference in Soviet Jewish affairs did not represent the majority of Russian Jewry. The reports from Moscow indicated that Soviet authorities were being selective, jailing the most overt trouble-makers and issuing or promising visas to other Jews who have publicly demanded them. The jailings will remove agitators from the scene for the duration of the Party Congress. The visas will remove many Jews from the country and quiet those preparing to leave who are not likely to demonstrate and run the risk of arrest and loss of their visas. According to some sources, more than 700 Soviet Jews have left for Israel since the first of the year, compared to 1,000 during all of 1970. But some Jewish sources believe Soviet authorities will revert to their restrictive emigration policies after the Communist Party Congress adjourns.

The fate of the Jews being held for trial is still in doubt. Reports were revived last week that nine Jews will go on trial in Leningrad early next month and four in Riga on April 5 or 6. All have been accused of complicity in the June 15, 1970 hijack plot for which 11 persons, all but two of them Jews, were convicted in Leningrad last December and sentenced to prison terms of 5-15 years at hard labor. A second Leningrad trial opened last Jan. 2 but was immediately adjourned, reportedly because one of the defendants was ill. The trial was never resumed. The documents in both the Leningrad and Riga cases were brought to Moscow last month for an unusual pre-trial review by a higher court that was supposed to have ended March 20. The higher court had the options of proceeding with the trials, cancelling them or postponing them pending further investigation. The latest reports indicated that the decision was to go ahead with the trials. (The Washington Post carried yesterday a detailed and dramatic account of the secret trial last Dec. in Leningrad. It stated that "this Russian-language account makes explicit that the fundamental accusation against the nine Jewish and two non-Jewish defendants was not hijacking as commonly believed but attempting to leave the Soviet Union without permission." The account received by the newspaper was apparently assembled by friends of the defendants admitted to the courtroom, because of "the emphasis it gives to the defendants' own statement of their case," the Washington Post stated.)

## 350 Dancers Participate In Israel Folk Dance Festival; 16 Groups Participate

NEW YORK, March 28 (JTA)--More than 350 dancers in 16 Israeli folk dance groups participated today in the two performances of the 20th annual Israel Dance Festival at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum. The performances of the dance pageant, "Highlights of the Past," were sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Council. Dr. Arnulf Pins, chairman of the AZYF, praised the successful appearance of the dance groups which have helped to establish the Dance Festival as a major cultural event on the New York Jewish scene. The program, composed of dances of labor, nature and love and comprising dances of the various ingathered communities, presented a sampling of Israel's culture. Between the afternoon and evening performance, the participating groups were joined in song and dance by hundreds of enthusiastic high school and college youth.

## Israeli Laborer, Father Of Six, Killed By Mine; Security Forces Investigating

TEL AVIV, March 28 (JTA)--Security forces are investigating a mine accident that killed one Israeli laborer and injured two others on a road in Upper Galilee on Friday afternoon. The mine was planted on a dirt road frequently used by workers on a Jewish National Fund afforestation project. A truck carrying 33 workers hit the mine while on its way back to Maalot township after the day's work. The fatally injured victim was identified as Victor Hasoun, 46, father of six. Maalot is a mixed Arab-Jewish township in central Galilee. The local council deplored the incident and urged Jewish and Arab residents to maintain their good neighborly relations that have prevailed until now. Israeli authorities have learned of new terrorist concentrations in southern Lebanon, apparently in preparation for increased activity against Israel in that sector. Israeli sources said the terrorists have been forced into Lebanon by the crackdown in Jordan and the restrictions placed on their activities recently by Syrian authorities. They are said to be waiting for improved weather to launch new incursions against Israel. Gen. Yeshayahu Gavish, former commander of Israel's southern command, indicated today that Israel's Air Force would resume its in-depth bombing of Egyptian targets should hostilities be renewed along the Suez Canal. The reserve officer said Israel had absolutely no undertaking to limit its retaliatory strikes to the canal zone. But he predicted that the present de facto cease-fire would be a prolonged one.

