

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

Tuesday, March 30, 1971

No. 61

15 Year Effort To Bring Jewish Family Out Of USSR Ends; Rabbi And Brother Reunited

ELLENVILLE, N. Y., March 29 (JTA)--The story of a Jew from Gorodmoskatchova, a village in the Carpathian part of the Soviet Union, who, through the intervention of Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, was finally permitted to leave with his family to join a brother he had not seen since 1944, was released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today by Rabbi Herman Eisner. For 15 years Rabbi Eisner, spiritual leader of Congregation Ezrath Israel, had sought to bring his brother and his family to the United States. Yet, when he finally succeeded and 62-year-old Joseph Eisner, his wife, Rose, and his six children landed in New York on Feb. 2, and reporters asked, "How come you were allowed to leave Russia?" Joseph Eisner could only answer, "I don't know." And, in fact, he didn't. The story began in 1944 when the Nazis cleared Kuznica, a small town in Slovakia, of its Jews; deporting Joseph Eisner to a slave labor camp in Hungary, and his mother and father, six brothers and a sister to other concentration camps. As the war drew to a close and Soviet troops entered Hungary, they transported the slave laborers to Russia where Eisner married and raised a family.

His father and mother, three brothers and a sister perished in the Auschwitz death camp. Three brothers survived. In 1947, Rabbi Eisner came to America. In 1948, he brought his brothers, Samuel and Mayer Eisner, to America. Samuel now lives in the Boro Park, and Mayer in the East Flatbush sections of Brooklyn. Rabbi Eisner knew that his brother Joseph had survived the holocaust, and was living in the Soviet Union. The brothers corresponded, but Joseph was afraid to apply for an exit visa. Finally, in 1956, Joseph wrote to his brother, stating he had applied for a permit to come to America with his family. For the next 15 years Rabbi Eisner battled to bring his brother and his brother's family to the United States. Time and again he wrote to Soviet leaders pleading that his brother and his family be permitted to emigrate. He approached every federal agency that he could think of including the State Department and his Congressmen, without success. Then, in the summer of 1970, Ulster County Clerk Albert Spada, knowing of Rabbi Eisner's efforts, suggested he contact Rockefeller. Spada wrote to the Governor on Rabbi Eisner's behalf. On July 15, the Governor wrote to Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin requesting that Joseph Eisner be granted permission to emigrate to America to rejoin his family.

Rockefeller wrote that he knew that "this was an internal Soviet affair" but the Governor urged that an exit visa be granted on grounds of compassion. Two months later, on Sept. 15, the Governor received a telephone call from George Shapkin, First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, telling him that Joseph Eisner and his family had been granted permission to join his relatives in the U.S. The Governor notified Rabbi Eisner of the good news, but requested it not be made public so that nothing be done or said that might hold up the Eisners' departure from the Soviet Union. The story is being made public now because Rabbi Eisner has asked for permission to do so. What of the Joseph Eisner family now? The Eisners live in Boro Park. They are "very happy" to be here and grow "very disturbed and angry" when they hear people "complaining about America." The Yiddish speaking family is studying English in adult education classes in Boro Park. Joseph Eisner, who was a supervisor of a government store in the Soviet Union is unemployed as is his daughter, Rosalie, 20, who was a school teacher in Russia. A second daughter, Leah, 20, is working as a bookkeeper. The two younger sons are students at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath: The two older sons, Ludwig, 17 and Todres, 19, will enter Yeshiva College in the fall.

Two Sverdlovsk Jews Arrested; Charged With 'Hooliganism' After Protesting Trials

NEW YORK, March 29 (JTA)--Two Jews in the Urals' city of Sverdlovsk were arrested by Soviet authorities recently after they sent letters to Premier Alexei Kosygin and Communist Party General Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev protesting the impending trials of Jews in Leningrad and Riga, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today. The arrests took place on March 17. The men were identified as Valery Kukui and Yuli Kosharovski. The latter was sentenced to 15 days in the workhouse on charges of "hooliganism." Kukui was also sentenced to a jail term of unknown duration. Both men reportedly were leaders of a group of nine Jews in Sverdlovsk who have been protesting the Leningrad trial. The sources said that the homes of each member of the group were searched by Soviet police. According to the same sources, Jews from Riga and from Vilna and Kovno, Lithuania have been barred from coming to Moscow and possibly other Soviet cities. The sources said the ban was imposed to prevent Jewish activists from staging demonstrations in the Soviet capital during the Communist Party Congress which opens there tomorrow.

Stalled Jarring Talks Prompts Israel To Consider Interim Solutions

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--The Israel government believes there is no chance at present to get the stalled Jarring talks going and is considering "interim solutions" short of a formal peace treaty, it was learned today. Several such plans are being discussed on the Cabinet level and are expected to be raised at an extraordinary Cabinet meeting scheduled for Wednesday. One plan calls for re-opening the Suez Canal on the basis of an agreement with Egypt but without any evacuation of territories or reduction of troops. According to informed sources, Israel would accept such an arrangement only if the state of belligerence between Israel and Egypt was ended. Should the matter of troop withdrawals come up, Israel would insist on reciprocity by Egypt, the sources said. Defense experts are also reported to be examining a proposal by United States Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco for an Israeli withdrawal to a line 26 miles east of the Suez Canal and another plan for a unilateral pull-back only a few miles from the canal bank.

The token pull-back would depend on whether military experts think Israeli forces could control the canal's banks without being right on them. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan is reportedly opposed to any unilateral pull-back. Israeli circles also take a dim view of the Sisco plan. They say that without a formal peace settlement it would be foolish for Israel to give up its Suez Canal line which provides the greatest in-depth security for Israel. According to these circles, a line 26 miles east of the canal would be more difficult to defend, would require more manpower and would lack the natural barrier provided by the waterway. The government is also reportedly considering a plan that would convert the current de facto cease-fire into an armistice. This would necessitate a contractual obligation by both sides not to resort to armed forces in the absence of a formal peace treaty.

Report Jarring Tells Riad Resumption Of Peace Mission Contingent On Israel's Reply

PARIS, March 29 (JTA)--United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring conferred with Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad for nearly two hours here today. While Dr. Jarring refused to make any comment to the press, reliable sources said he informed the Egyptian diplomat that resumption of his Middle East peace mission would have to await Israel's reply to his questionnaire of Feb. 8, to which Egypt has already replied. Dr. Jarring arrived here from New York last night and was expected to leave tomorrow for Moscow to resume his Swedish ambassadorial duties for the time being. Dr. Jarring's Feb. 8 note asked Israel if it was prepared to offer a commitment to the principle of withdrawal from occupied Arab territories. The note got a less than enthusiastic reception in Jerusalem where some officials charged that it exceeded the scope of Dr. Jarring's mandate from the Security Council. Cairo replied in the affirmative to the envoy's note asking if Egypt agreed in principle to make peace with Israel. Following his meeting with Dr. Jarring, Riad conferred for nearly two hours with French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann. Riad afterwards said that the meeting was "fruitful and useful" and indicated that the two countries agreed to continue to place their trust in the Jarring mission for a settlement of the Mideast conflict. Informed sources said Riad and Schumann agreed to consult before either country undertook any new major diplomatic initiative.

Israeli, French Scientists In Symposium; Sign Of Closer Franco-Israel Relations

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Israeli and French scientists will gather at Beit Dagan, near Tel Aviv March 31-April 1 for a joint symposium on radiation and agriculture to be held at the Vulcan Agricultural Research Institute. Co-sponsors of the event are the Prime Minister's office, the National Council for Research and Development and the French Agricultural Ministry's National Institute for Agricultural Research. The symposium has political implications as well as scientific purpose. It was described officially as "a further link in the series of actions for the creation of closer relations between Israel and France in the field of science under the provisions of the cultural agreement between the two countries." The agreement is regarded as an important step toward improving Franco-Israel relations which deteriorated seriously after the Six-Day War. Fourteen French scientists and scholars visited Israel last year and 19 Israelis went to France for scholarly research at French institutions. In addition, 18 French scientists were invited to carry out research projects jointly with Israeli scientists. A similar exchange is planned for the current year.

Egypt, Syria Hold 14 Israeli POWs; Israel Holds 71 Egyptian, 40 Syrian POWs

TEL AVIV, March 29 (JTA)--Egypt and Syria hold 14 Israeli prisoners of war. Of the 11 in Egypt, some are sick and entitled to repatriation under the Geneva Convention but Egypt refuses to release them, it was learned today. There are 71 Egyptian and 40 Syrian POWs in Israel. One POW released by Egypt yesterday was Sgt. Yair Dori of Kibbutz Lahavot Habashan, who was re-united with his mother at an Army hospital last night and had a chat with Defense Minister Moshe Dayan. Dori, who was wounded in an Egyptian commando raid last May, spent nearly 11 months in captivity. According to a Red Cross report, he was in a serious condition when captured and Egyptian physicians saved his life. But his right arm was amputated at the elbow and his eyesight was seriously impaired. Nevertheless, Dori seemed to be in good spirits. The young man immigrated to Israel several years ago from Argentina.

Housing Development In East Jerusalem Will Provide For 2,600 Units

JERUSALEM, March 29 (JTA)--Israel is proceeding with the first stage of a controversial housing development that will establish 2,600 Jewish housing units in the former Arab sector of East Jerusalem, Housing Minister Zeev Sharef told the Knesset today. He said 750 units will be built in the Nevev Yaacov area, 550 in Ramot, 600 in East Talpiti and 700 in Giloh. The project has been criticized in Israel for aesthetic reasons and denounced abroad on grounds that it violated United Nations Security Council injunctions prohibiting Israel from unilaterally altering the status of Jerusalem. Sharef disclosed that 1,626 persons still live in maabarot, the communities of "temporary" tin huts erected all over Israel 20 years ago to house the flood of immigrants arriving during the early years of Statehood. Sharef said that virtually all of the persons still housed in maabarot were social cases in need of rehabilitation. He said the lack of housing was only one of their many problems.

Rabbi, Cleric Present Appeal On Behalf Of Russian Jews To Soviet Embassy

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA)--A rabbi and a Christian clergyman visited the Soviet Embassy here today to deliver an appeal on behalf of Soviet Jews. Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, director of the religious action center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Rev. Dr. David Hunter, deputy secretary general of the National Council of Churches of Christ of America, conferred for 90 minutes with two Embassy officials. They brought with them a statement by the Synagogue Council of America, representing the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox branches of American Judaism, which appealed to the Soviet Communist Party Congress that opens in Moscow tomorrow to eliminate "the cruel vestiges of Stalin's rule" against the more than three million Soviet Jews. The Soviet officials, Igor Bubnov, political counsellor of the Embassy and Alexander Yefstafeyev, press counsellor, refused to receive the petition on grounds that the Embassy does not accept such documents as a matter of policy. But they spoke at length with the two visitors.

Possibility Of Palestinian Entity Absent From State Department Report

WASHINGTON, March 29 (JTA)--The possibility a Palestinian entity might emerge from a Middle East peace settlement is not mentioned by Secretary of State William P. Rogers in his voluminous report on United States foreign policy in the past two years under his stewardship. Referring to the Arab-Israeli dispute, Mr. Rogers notes in the 617-page volume issued Friday by the State Department that "Jerusalem should be a unified city" and that "Israel and Jordan should both have roles in its civic, economic and religious life." Israel has full control of all of Jerusalem as a result of the 1967 war. Its government has repeatedly made clear that it will not relinquish sovereignty over the city. A State Department source said that the reason for the absence of reference to Palestine is that "essentially the matter regarding Jerusalem and the West Bank is for the Arabs to determine." King Hussein of Jordan "has the largest dimension in this respect," the source said. "His position is that if a peace settlement is achieved, he will be prepared to consider suggestions for the role of Palestinians." About three months ago Department sources indicated that the United States was looking favorably upon the establishment of a separate Palestinian political entity taking in the West Bank of the Jordan and possibly the Gaza strip. Secretary Rogers' volume is the first of its kind issued by the State Department in 75 years. The last similar comprehensive compilation of reports and documents came during President Grover Cleveland's second term in 1896.

The Rogers' report, compiled as a supplement documenting President Nixon's reports both last month and last year on the state of world affairs, does not reveal any significant American policy changes or departures from the President's summations. Regarding the American position on the Middle East, Secretary Rogers in his preface to the report reiterates that his own "policy statement of 1969 and the President's recent report on foreign policy represent our judgment of what would constitute the basis of a just peace." A short passage on U.S.-Israel ties leads the section regarding American bilateral relations with other Middle Eastern countries. It says "traditionally close U.S.-Israel ties persisted during 1969-70 against the strains and turmoil of fluctuating periods of military conflict and intensified diplomatic efforts to bring about negotiations" in the Middle East. Despite significant "differences of opinion" with Israel regarding the U.S. view on the "basis for settlement" in the area, the Rogers' report adds, "there has been no disagreement on the basic goal--a comprehensive and binding peace agreement between the parties to the conflict which would put into effect the UN Resolution of Nov. 22, 1967." Regarding Egypt, the report says that "since 1969 the United States has made it clear to the UAR, both publicly and privately, that we are prepared to restore diplomatic relations without conditions."

Zionist Official Says Jewish Policy Of Soviet Union Doomed To Failure

LONDON, March 29 (JTA)--A Zionist official said today that he believed "the Jewish policy of the Soviet Union is doomed to failure and, perhaps many in the Soviet Union have sensed it already." Dr. S. Levenberg, Jewish Agency representative in Britain, addressed a session on Soviet Jewry at the 70th annual conference of the British Zionist Federation. "Soviet anti-Semitism is not racial; it is political. It can be put on and turned off by the authorities," Dr. Levenberg said. He added, "At the same time, Soviet Jews cannot assimilate, particularly in the Ukraine where there are 25 Jewish communities." The same session was addressed by Abraham Zalmanson, the Israeli uncle of Silva and Wolf Zalmanson who were sentenced to prison terms in last December's Leningrad hijack trial. Zalmanson is an uncle-by-marriage of Edvard Kuznetsov whose death sentence at the Leningrad trial was commuted to 15 years imprisonment. He told the delegates, "The Leningrad trial was designed to frighten Soviet Jews but it misfired."

The closing session of the conference was devoted to resolutions and a report on the Zionist Federation's recent membership drive which added a total of some 9,000 new registered members to the movement. A resolution submitted by the Poale Zion (Labor Zionist) youth concerning elections to the next Zionist Congress was narrowly defeated by a 106-103 vote. The resolution called for U.K. delegates to the Congress to be elected by a "process of democratic election" by people who registered as Zionists during the membership campaign. The conference adopted a resolution that viewed with alarm "the growing popular support for racialist views in Great Britain which are directly affecting the Jewish community." It noted "with deep concern support for racialist regimes abroad" and called on the Zionist movement to lead the Jewish community in the struggle "against racialism in Britain" and particularly the sale of arms to South Africa.

Jewish Communities Have Responsibility To Strengthen Public, Jewish Education

BOSTON, March 29 (JTA)--Mrs. Charles Snitow, retiring president of the American Jewish Congress' National Women's Division, told its convention banquet here today that Jewish communities had a responsibility to strengthen public education as well as Jewish education. Mrs. Snitow, of Scarsdale, N.Y., observed that "one of the glories of America has been the social mobility of its immigrants and their children for whom public schools were the way out of poverty and ignorance, the way up the social and economic ladder." She told the more than 500 delegates attending the biennial national conference that "if public schools should become a catch-all for the unsuccessful, the poor, the helpless and the misfits--an inevitable development if private and parochial schools receive public funds--we will see a hardening of class distinctions and a deepening of racial and religious divisions."

Addressing a workshop session, Rabbi Herman Pollack, Hillel director at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said that Jews were faced with the alternative of "either living by our moral commitments or becoming sycophants. Our relation to our heritage must not be determined by the climate of opinion," he said. He cited a recent opinion by the Rabbinical Court of Massachusetts upholding the right of selective conscientious objection, an opinion at odds with the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that only those opposed to any form of war could be granted conscientious objectors' status. At an earlier session, Dr. Henry Rosovsky, a Harvard professor, said that demands on Israel to withdraw from occupied territories without adequate safeguards is antithetical to American national interest. He declared: "It is unrealistic and unfair to ask Israel to accept the same international guarantees that have failed her at critical moments over the years."

