

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, April 23, 1971

No. 79

Conservative, Reform Rabbis To Jointly Develop Education Programs To Attract Youth

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--For the first time, Conservative and Reform rabbis in the tri-State area will combine forces to develop Jewish education programs aimed at attracting young people back to the synagogue and Jewish life. A joint statement issued by the New York Association of Reform Rabbis and the Metropolitan Council of the Rabbinical Assembly called for the creation of a "crash program of Jewish education to reach young people to understand and identify with Judaism." The declaration resulted from the first historic gathering by both Rabbinic Associations at an all-day meeting studying common concerns and problems. The rabbis stressed the need for greater cooperation and closer working relations among their respective Rabbinic bodies, citing that the economic crises, shortage of trained manpower "demands such unity." While emphasizing that such common efforts did not imply a merger, the Reform and Conservative rabbis noted, "there are many overriding crucial issues involving the Jewish community which we can and must face together." In their statement, the rabbis said, "the alienation of our youth and their defection from this synagogue is in large measure the result of the ignorance of their heritage. They have 'turned off.' Rather, they have never been 'turned on.' The failure is not theirs--it is ours."

Both groups appointed a committee to develop common programs in the area of Jewish education and other fields. They stated that the process to create programs for Jewish education would "take time" and that the best available minds would be sought, including those of young people. Rabbi Herbert Rose, president of the Reform Rabbinic Association, called for the utilization of experimental pedagogic techniques and to pattern educational programs according to the language of young people and contemporary times. Rabbi Rose, spiritual leader of Temple Or Elohim, Jericho, N.Y., suggested that in recruiting young people the teaching of Judaism be the prime concern, not financial support of the synagogue. "We should welcome any youngster into our youth groups and high school classes at a nominal charge or no cost at all," he said. Rabbi Albert Thaler, president of the Metropolitan Council asserted "we must discard the old conceptions of Jewish education. This should apply to all forms, not the classroom alone." He considered it essential to involve young people in development of such new programs.

Rabbi Thaler, of the Queensboro Jewish Community Center, Queens, N.Y., noted that during the past 15 years Jewish religious institutions erred in pouring such vast sums into the building of immense synagogue buildings. He said, "We have buildings without young people, who neither study or worship with us." The rabbis also said that not enough was being done to help Soviet Jews "commensurate with the financial, spiritual or material resources capable of being mustered by the Jewish community." They expressed "gratification" at the increased number of exit visas granted by the USSR authorities, and hoped that the Soviet government would continue "to expand the opportunity for any Jew who wants to leave to do so," and called for "full freedom of religious and cultural expression to those who choose to remain in the USSR." The rabbis also called for free religious opportunities for all religious persuasions in the State of Israel. They added, "We believe that we have a contribution to offer Israel's spiritual growth and development no less than the material support we have assumed as a sacred obligation."

Jackson Urges Dropping Of Rogers Formula To Settle Mideast Issues

BOSTON, April 22 (JTA)--Sen. Henry M. Jackson urged today that the U.S. government drop the "formula" of Secretary of State William P. Rogers as a means to resolve the issues in the Middle East. "If we wish to promote serious negotiations in the Middle East we must drop the Rogers formula," the Washington Democrat said in a speech here before the World Affairs Council. Jackson said that continued support for the "Rogers formula" has now become "the major obstacle to progress in the efforts to negotiate stable peace in the Middle East." He added that the formula's "principal effect has been to shake the confidence of our friends, deepen the intransigence of our enemies and discourage genuine negotiations." Jackson described the formula as providing that "any settlement should be based on Israeli withdrawal from virtually all occupied territory." He said that "only a failure to appreciate Israel's determination to negotiate secure and defensible borders can explain the administration's persistence in this shortsighted plan." He also said that "our energetic diplomacy aimed at reopening the Suez Canal is extremely dangerous."

Jackson observed that "once the canal is opened the effectiveness of the growing Soviet military and merchant fleets would be doubled" and contribute to the "ongoing Soviet penetration of Africa." Moreover, Sen. Jackson said, the U.S. could well find itself "undertaking to prevent, by force if necessary, a Soviet-Egyptian movement onto the East Bank of the canal" which is held by Israeli forces. "In my view," he added, "the reopening of the Suez Canal should only be negotiated as part of an overall settlement and not in order to obtain fragile interim arrangements of doubtful value." Israeli views on reopening of the canal were provided to the U.S. on Monday in Jerusalem and Washington. The State Department is to make them available to the Cairo government which provided its own proposals about three weeks ago on this facet of the Middle East situation. Pointing out that Western Europe is "still not making a reasonably proportionate contribution to the common defense effort," Sen. Jackson warned that "a more confident Soviet Union can be expected to throw its weight around more vigorously on behalf of its great power interests." He said "this growing Soviet boldness is evidenced in the Middle East" and advised that "looking ahead, the need for the forces and firmness of the Atlantic Alliance is more compelling than ever."

U.S. Going Beyond Role Of Mideast Broker: Trying To Influence Israel On Interim Pact

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA)--Indications emerged here today that the United States role in current efforts to bring about an interim arrangement between Israel and Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal is more than that of an intermediary. Information from reliable though unofficial quarters implied that the U.S. was in fact seeking to influence Israeli terms for an interim arrangement. There were also indications that the U.S. favors the participation of United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring at some stage in the negotiations for an interim agreement. The U.S. received Israel's terms this week. They were officially defined in Jerusalem as "principles" rather than proposals. But the U.S. government appeared to be in no hurry to convey them to Cairo. Officials here said today that Israel's views have not yet been transmitted to the Egyptian government or any other governments, including the Big Four. State Department spokesman Charles Bray said at today's news briefing that he assumed "we will convey them (Israel's terms) in due season" to the Egyptian government. Asked if the Israeli views were conveyed to Dr. Jarring who is presently at his diplomatic post in Moscow, Bray replied, "That is my understanding." He added, in reply to a reporter's question, "you can assume they were conveyed through the U.S. Embassy in Moscow." Asked if Dr. Jarring was conveying the Israeli views to any other parties, Bray said, "I have no idea."

There was some speculation that the U.S. might not object if the UN envoy were somehow to convey Israel's views informally to Cairo to test reaction. The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram claimed yesterday that Egypt has already rejected Israel's terms. The paper did not say when or how Egypt received them. Some observers here believe the present stage of negotiations for an interim settlement in the Suez Canal zone are between Jerusalem and Washington rather than between the two parties to the conflict. The U.S. may be trying to get Israel to modify its terms to make them more acceptable to Egypt, some observers speculated. Egypt's diplomatic representative in Washington, Arshaf Ghorbal, visited the State Department yesterday. Officials insisted that the subject of an interim arrangement was not discussed. Bray said today that the U.S. considers the military balance in the Middle East to be "in balance." A report carried by the New York Times Monday that the U.S. was delivering 12 more Phantom jets to Israel to offset the Soviet delivery of advanced fighter aircraft to Egypt was characterized by him as inaccurate in "fact and by implication." He said the facts of "the nature of the U.S. military supply relationship with Israel" were conveyed to the party concerned on "a government-to-government basis."

Israel Would Welcome Rogers; No Confirmation He Will Visit Mideast Capitals

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA)--Official circles here said this morning that Israel would "gladly welcome" a visit by U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers. They said however that there was no official confirmation from Washington that Rogers intends to visit Israel. (In Washington, the State Department would not confirm today press reports that Rogers will visit Middle East capitals early next month following a meeting of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) powers in Ankara, Turkey at the end of April. It was learned unofficially that May 8 has been set as the target date for Rogers' return to Washington. The CENTO meeting ends May 1, giving the Secretary of State a full week to visit Mideast countries. According to unofficial reports here Rogers would probably extend his visit to include Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.) Rogers will be the first American Secretary of State to visit Cairo since the late John Foster Dulles conferred with Egyptian leaders in 1953. Michael Sterner, chief of the State Department's Egyptian desk, is presently in Cairo, reportedly to make arrangements for Rogers' visit. Diplomatic sources abroad said today that Rogers did not consider it politic to visit the Middle East as long as an impasse existed between Israel and Egypt. But after receiving Israel's terms for an interim arrangement with Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal this week he apparently decided that the opportune moment had come for a visit without risking charges that the U.S. was interfering to break the deadlock, the sources said.

Russian Emigre Says Hebrew Taught At Institutions Of Higher Learning In USSR

LONDON, April 22 (JTA)--The Hebrew language is taught at the University of Moscow and other institutions of higher learning in the Soviet Union but is unavailable to students at lower levels except from private tutors. Hebrew books from Israel arrive by normal mail without interference, yet books from Israel have been confiscated from the homes of some Russian Jews. The paradoxical situation was reported in Jerusalem by Anatol Dekatov, a Jewish emigre from the USSR and an engineer by profession, who conducted a Hebrew class in Moscow before he left for Israel earlier this year. Dekatov addressed a meeting of the world executive of the Brit Ivrit Olamit (World Hebrew Union) on the status of Hebrew in the Soviet Union. His report was made available to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency through a member of the executive in London. Dekatov said that while he experienced no difficulties and was able to advertise his Hebrew course in Soviet newspapers, the friend to whom he turned over his class when he left Russia has been harassed, jailed and investigated by Soviet authorities. Dekatov said he learned Hebrew in Russia. "When I opened my Hebrew classes, a kind of ulpan in the middle of Moscow, I committed no crime under Soviet law," he said. "I started with four pupils. People hesitated at the beginning, but after a time I began to supplement word-of-mouth promotion for my school with newspaper advertising and bill posting." Dekatov said when he went to place his first advertisement in a Moscow newspaper "They asked me, what is Hebrew. They said they never heard of it. When I pointed out that I was fully entitled to teach an ancient language, they accepted the advertisement." Dekatov said another paper flatly refused. It turned out that its editor was a Jew.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--A bomb exploded this afternoon in the stairwell of the 19th floor of the midtown building that houses Amtorg, the Soviet trading corporation. No one was injured and damage was reported to be minor. A second, unexploded device was found by police in the stairwell of the 20th floor. The police were alerted by a phone call at 5:10 p.m. twenty minutes before the explosion. A phone call to the local police precinct warned "Five grenades have been placed in the offices of Amtorg. Let my people go." The police phoned Amtorg and warned them to evacuate the building.

Reconstituted Jewish Agency Giving Broader Representation To Fund-Raising Bodies

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--Final plans for the Reconstitution of the Jewish Agency at an Inaugural Assembly to be held in Jerusalem were made at the meeting of the Planning Committee for the Reconstitution of the Jewish Agency which met here for three days. It was announced today by Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, and Max M. Fisher, chairman of the Planning Committee. Participating in the meeting were members of the Planning Committee from Israel, United States and Canada, Europe, South Africa and South America. The Reconstituted Jewish Agency provides for a 296 man body, half of whom will represent the fund raising bodies in Jewish communities throughout the world, and the other half will represent the World Zionist Organization. The reconstituted and enlarged Jewish Agency, will provide for greater participation of fund raising bodies throughout the world in planning Jewish Agency programs and activities in behalf of Israel. The Reconstituted Jewish Agency provides for a separation of structure and functions between the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel. It will assume the following functions: immigration to and absorption of immigrants in Israel; social welfare services in connection with immigrant absorption; health services in connection with immigration and absorption; education; higher learning and research; youth care and training; absorption in agricultural settlements; and immigrant housing.

The World Zionist Organization will continue to be the overall Zionist body throughout the world. It operates primarily in the fields of Aliya, Education in the Diaspora, Youth and Hechalutz, Organization and Information, Cultural Institutions, Publications and the handling of the activities of the Jewish National Fund. The Inaugural Assembly of the Reconstituted Jewish Agency will elect a Board of Governors of 40 members and in a series of panels review and plan for the eight areas of activities encompassed within its functions. The 296 member General Assembly of the Reconstituted Jewish Agency will include 130 American members, 89 designated by the United Israel Appeal, Inc., and with 41 among the World Zionist representation. In announcing the completion of plans for the Inaugural Assembly, that will formalize the Reconstitution, Pincus said:

"The Reconstituted Jewish Agency is a practical expression of world Jewry's determination to do their utmost to give fulfillment to the lives of those rescued Jews, survivors of the holocaust, and others from lands of oppression who have come to Israel in the last quarter century. The Reconstituted Jewish Agency is evidence of the fact that there no longer is any relevance to the distinction of non-Zionist and Zionist--we are all joined together as Jews to help Israel and its people." Fisher, commenting on the conclusion of arrangements for the Reconstituted Jewish Agency, said: "This is the culmination of the concept originally made in 1922 in the Palestine Mandate of the Council of the League of Nations... Today, with the Reconstitution of the Jewish Agency, there is a formal recognition of the role played and to be played by all Jews willing to assist in the development and growth of Israel." Continuing, Fisher declared: "It is an alliance cemented in the joint rescue and absorption of a million and a half of oppressed Jews from some of the darkest corners of the world and it is a partnership that responded to the desperate hours and needs of the Six-Day War and rose to new heights of achievement."

Israel Marks Annual Memorial Observance Of Holocaust

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA)--All of Israel stood still at eight o'clock this morning as a two-minute blast on sirens ushered in the nation's annual memorial observance of the Nazi holocaust. Memorial ceremonies started last night. Eighty-one assemblies were held in major cities. Thirty-four memorial services are being held today, climaxed by the central closing assembly at the Yad Vashem, the memorial to Jewish martyrs. Premier Golda Meir addressed the assembly this evening. She said it was imperative for Israel "to remember what happened yesterday to keep it from happening tomorrow." She said some people criticized Israel for "remembering too much" and claim that because of it "we do not go forward." But, she said, "We do and will remember because we shall not go forward if it means returning to a place that is fraught with memories of danger to our survival."

Thousands of people, many of them holocaust survivors from Poland, gathered at the Martyrs Forest near Jerusalem for a mass memorial service. Rabbi Yitzhak Yedidia Frenkel claimed that Israel's answer to the holocaust must be the "mass migration from all the diaspora for the economic and security consolidation of the State." Several thousand Hebrew University students attended a memorial tribute and mass rally on the campus this afternoon. They were addressed by the Rector, Prof. Yaacov Katz and Gideon Hausner, a Knesset member. Katz observed that "the myth of Jewish emancipation in Europe was shattered when one large country forcibly took away the great achievement of that emancipation--that of equal rights." He was referring to the Soviet Union. The mood in Israel was more solemn than on any Sabbath. All places of entertainment have been closed since last night. Radio and television broadcast only elegiac music and recountings, mainly for the benefit of the younger generation of the holocaust that took the lives of six million European Jews.

More than in past years, remembrance of the holocaust was linked to the present political situation. National leaders implied that the destruction of half the world's Jews a generation ago was by itself justification for Israel's uncompromising stand on conditions for peace with the Arabs. Foreign Minister Abba Eban told a memorial assembly in Tel Aviv that one of the lessons of the holocaust was that "We have to regard the existence of Israel as a supreme imperative, higher than which there is none. The world can ask anything of us except jeopardizing the survival of the State that belongs to the people bereaved of millions of its sons," he said. Deputy Premier Yigal Ailon, in a statement taped prior to his departure for Washington this week, observed: "The faculty to remember is one of our distinguishing features, both as a command and as a legacy. We are the generation that has grown up in the holocaust or under its shadow. We are determined to see to it that our people shall never again be left in the lurch. The Jewish people in its homeland knows how to defend its life and liberty." Menachem Beigin, leader of the Gahal opposition faction, said at ceremonies at Beit Jabotinsky, "The lesson of the holocaust is that when an enemy says he wants to destroy the Jewish people he should be taken at face value and we should not rely on the world's succor."

Tekoa, Miller Say Lesson Of Holocaust Is That Jews Must Hold Firm

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--The lesson of the holocaust was cited last night by Israel's United Nations Ambassador Yosef Tekoa to explain his country's steadfast position in the current stalled Middle East peace talks. Speaking at memorial services for six million Jewish victims of Nazism held at Hunter College, Tekoa said, "Some may even be ready to come to us with advice on how to behave; with counsel that we should be less firm in our legitimate demands, less insistent on our rights, more confident of the good will of our enemies." Rejecting this approach, he declared: "We cannot be, not after the holocaust, not after 23 years of war in which we have had to defend Israel's very right to life. Not when our existence continues to be menaced." Tekoa dismissed proposals that Israel put its trust "in international guarantees, in the United Nations, in international forces and in great powers." He said, "No nation in the world does that. Which people has been saved by international sympathy, by international guarantees--Czechoslovakia, Biafra, East Pakistan? Israel will not be Czechoslovakia. Why must Israel be asked to be different?" Observing that Israel has "had enough of war," Tekoa asserted that "We cannot agree to the restoration of conditions which have been the cause of war. No state in the world has ever consented to end a conflict by leaving the sources of friction unchanged. We will not be different from others. We are determined not to return to the chaos and vulnerability of the 1967 lines. Nobody in our place would."

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, told the audience that the observance of the holocaust "is dedicated not only to the obstinacy of our grief but to the obstinacy of our hope. We refuse to forget, even as we refuse to be comforted." He declared that it is the "strength of the commitment of those who died, that we must inherit. We must be as obstinate, as intransigent, as inflexible in our hope, as we are in our grief. The voices of the Jews of the Soviet Union are the voices of strength and hope. It is this obstinacy of hope that will inspire American Jewry to fulfill its destiny here and for Israel." Earlier in the week, Senator Jacob K. Javits told 5,000 persons at Carnegie Hall attending the 28th anniversary meeting of the Warsaw ghetto uprising that "the opportunity is at hand for our nation to perform a tangible and substantive act of commemoration" to the ghetto revolt. This act would be for the U.S. Senate to ratify the Genocide Convention. The Senate Foreign Relations committee recently voted to recommend ratification by the full Senate. Speaking at the same rally, Mayor John V. Lindsay said: "We are here today not to mourn, but to hope. What sustains our hope is the past, the fight to be human and free."

Jewish Community Council To Provide Aid For Jewish Participants In Peace Rally

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington is mobilizing support among its 160 constituent organizations in the area to provide food, shelter and religious services for Jewish participants in Saturday's march for peace in Indo-China. Samuel Sisen, assistant director of the Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that shelter and kosher food will be available at the B'nai B'rith headquarters in downtown Washington. He said a medical center staffed by the Medical Committee for Human Rights, a non-sectarian, non-partisan physicians group, will also be located in the B'nai B'rith building. The Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations will serve as a clearing house for families offering the use of their homes to participants in the peace march, Sisen said. All housing requests will be coordinated through that office. The Reform religious center and the B'nai B'rith building will be the sites of special religious services for the marchers to be conducted at 9:30 Saturday morning. Following the services, the participants will march as a body to the Elipse where they will join the demonstration. Members and friends of Temple Micah in Southeast Washington also plan to join the march. Sisen said the UAHC was encouraging participation in the peace march. Other Jewish organizations are taking no positions, pro or con, but are offering necessities.

Union, Federation Agree On Wage Increases; Summer Program Crisis Averted

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--Members of local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO, employed by 21 group-work agencies of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, have approved a stipulation of agreement on wage increases, an official of the local said today. The agreement on wages involves group workers, and teachers in nursery schools and music teachers and goes into effect immediately while negotiations are to continue on non-wage aspects of a new contract, spokesman Erik Strong told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The wage agreement covers some 450 workers. The official indicated that the threat by Federation to cancel its summer programs for youngsters had been averted. The local also is engaged in negotiations, under mediation, for Federation caseworkers, Strong said. The casework members have authorized a strike on 14-days notice. Some elements of the stipulation on wages are tied to pay aspects involved in caseworker demands.

Second Department Store Bans Soviet Goods

SAN FRANCISCO, April 22 (JTA)--Corporate officers of the Emporium, a leading department store here, have agreed to boycott Soviet-made goods in response to a request made by Soviet Jewry Action Group, which is based in this city. This makes the Emporium the second major San Francisco store to honor the boycott in protest over the denial of freedom to Soviet Jews: City of Paris made a similar agreement several weeks ago. Jerry Westin, president of SJAG noted that these appear to be the first major stores anywhere in the world to remove Soviet-made goods from their shelves because of the Soviet Jewry problem. Goods involved at the Emporium are reported to include vodka, caviar and furs. Linda Pupos, SJAG board member, who was instrumental in negotiations with the officers of both stores, declared that, "These two are only the beginning. Our goal locally is to clear San Francisco of Soviet products until they let my people go!"

Fashion Show Raises \$750,000 In Israel Bond Funds

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA)--An all-Israel fashion show and luncheon today helped to mobilize more than \$750,000 for the economic development of Israel through the sale of Israel Bonds. The event, which honored N.Y.C. Commissioner of Consumer Affairs Bess Meyerson, is expected to be responsible for more than \$1 million when all commitments made by the more than 900 women who attended are fulfilled.