

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Monday, May 3, 1971

No. 85

Ambros, Convicted Nazi War Criminal, Abandons Plans To Visit U.S.

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA)—Otto Ambros, the convicted Nazi war criminal who managed a rubber factory at the Auschwitz death camp during World War II, has abandoned plans for a third visit to the United States, a State Department spokesman reported. The 70-year-old German scientist had requested a special visa from the American consulate at Stuttgart to attend a seminar of the Dow Chemical Co. at Midland, Mich. on May 12. News of his request touched off numerous protests among Jewish leaders. The spokesman, Fred Scott of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, said the Stuttgart consulate had reported that Ambros "has other commitments" and would not come to the United States. Scott also disclosed on Friday that an investigation showed Ambros had been in the United States twice previously on special authorization, required because he had been sentenced by a war crimes tribunal in Nuremberg in 1948 to serve eight years in prison for "misusing slave labor" as a manager of the I. G. Farben plant at Auschwitz. Slave laborers culled from Jewish and other inmates at the death camp lasted about three months at the rubber plant and about 25,000 of them employed by Farben died. Sixty percent of those brought to Auschwitz were gassed at the death camp.

Scott said Ambros came to the United States in 1967 after the State Department recommended to the Justice Department a waiver on his eligibility which was granted. In 1969, the former Nazi received a second visa, but this time the United States consulate gave him the visa by local decision apparently on the ground that the waiver granted in 1967 was sufficient for a second waiver. Scott told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Stuttgart consulate granted Ambros a visa early in April without referring the request to Washington because the previous visas allowed him. The spokesman said he had no records to indicate whom Ambros visited during his previous stays in the United States. On the third bid, the Dow firm supported his application and a Dow spokesman was quoted as describing Ambros as a "well-informed authority on the German chemical industry." The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish War Veterans and the Jewish Defense League had demanded that Ambros be barred from entry. The American Jewish Committee representative here said that if Ambros had legitimate business in the United States, "he has the right to be here, just as others have the right to comment on what they think of him."

Eban: Neither Israel Nor U.S. Has Adopted Any Final Position On Interim Accord

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA)—Neither Israel nor the United States has adopted any final position on terms for an interim arrangement to reopen the Suez Canal. This fact was stressed last night by Foreign Minister Abba Eban on a radio interview and was elaborated on by very reliable sources following today's Cabinet meeting. The sources said that the note on the subject which Premier Golda Meir handed U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour two weeks ago for conveyance to Washington and subsequently to Cairo, was not Israel's final word and may be amended in light of the forthcoming talks with Secretary of State William P. Rogers who is expected here Thursday. The sources said Barbour stressed that his government has not rejected all of the points in Israel's position. On the contrary, the U.S. has accepted some of them, expressed disagreement with others and asked for clarification of still others, the sources said. Among the points that the U.S. accepts unequivocally is Israel's key demand that no Egyptian or Soviet troops may cross the Suez Canal to occupy areas which Israel may evacuate as part of an interim settlement. Appearing on the weekly radio news magazine, Eban said substantially the same thing, disclosing for the first time that there has been an official American response to Israel's proposals for a partial settlement.

Eban said that Washington was vague on certain points that are vital to Israel and require exact definitions. One of these was what the U.S. would want to and would be able to do to reassure Israel that acceptance of an agreement to reopen the Suez Canal would not result in Egyptian or Soviet forces crossing the waterway. Eban emphatically rejected reports that Israel was embroiled in a political confrontation with the U.S. He said that even if there are disagreements, the term confrontation should be reserved only for a situation such as prevailed in 1957 when the U.S. and the Soviet Union jointly demanded total Israeli evacuation from Sinai without an agreement. Eban said his government has defined its position as a demand for "an unlimited cease-fire and absolute certainty that the fighting will not be resumed." He said the official position of the Israel government was that abrogation of the state of belligerency had far broader legal and political implications than simple non-shooting and therefore did not belong to the context of a partial and limited arrangement. The Foreign Minister stressed that this was the government's position and not necessarily his personal view.

Report New Trial Date Set For Riga Jews; Continued Arrests, Harassment Of Others

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA)—Reports of a new trial date of Soviet Jews in Riga, increased harassment of Soviet Jews and the murder of a Soviet Jew were published here in Undercover, a publication of the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. According to the reports, the trial of Riga Jews, which had been scheduled for April, has been reset for May 24. Harassment and arrests of Soviet Jews who applied for exit permits to emigrate to Israel have continued unabatedly, Undercover reported. Yefim Sevela, the Moscow Jewish movie director, has been placed under surveillance of Soviet police and subjected to official harassment ever since he submitted a request to the authorities for an exit permit to Israel. On April 16 he was informed that his case would be reviewed. Informed sources have reported that members of the film industry in the United States and other Western countries are seeking to intercede with the Soviet authorities on his behalf. At the same

lmo; it was disclosed that Lazar Ljubarski, 45, whose address was given as 11 Prospect Street, Rostov, has been placed under arrest. He is charged with anti-Soviet propaganda following his request for an exit visa to Israel. A Polish student, Martina Kansburg of Cracow, has been dismissed from the Cracow University where she was a fourth year student of philology, according to Underground. Her expulsion followed her request to the university administration for a character reference which, she had explained, had been required by Ovir in connection with her application for an emigration visa to Israel. The murder of a Soviet Jewish hatmaker of Gudauta, a town in the Republic of Georgia, was also reported by Undercover. Jewish sources said they feared that Shalom Khakmishvili, had been the victim of an anti-Semitic attack. Undercover also reported that a prayer service on the first day of Passover; held in a private home in Lvov, was disrupted by a police detachment under the command of a lieutenant which entered the home and requested the names of all those present. Using abusive language and threats, they then forcibly dispersed the 40 congregants. The last remaining synagogue in Lvov, a town containing 30,000 Jews, was closed down in 1963.

Rogers Due In Israel Thursday, In Cairo Tuesday; Focus Will Be On Canal Reopening

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Israel next Thursday and will stay here until Friday, it was reported today. He arrived in Amman, Jordan this afternoon. While no official itinerary has been released, informed sources said Rogers would go to Beirut, Lebanon tomorrow and would be in Cairo Tuesday and Wednesday. Rogers' discussion with Mideast leaders will focus on ways to narrow Israeli-Egyptian differences over reopening the Suez Canal. He was in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia yesterday where he delivered a message from President Nixon to King Faisal stressing that the U.S. "is willing to play any reasonable and useful role" to achieve a just peace in the Mideast. Rogers is accompanied on his tour by Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco. The crucial talks on his visit will take place in Cairo and Jerusalem. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said in a May Day speech yesterday that Egypt would insist on its three key demands for any Mideast peace settlement.

Addressing workers at the industrial suburb of Helway, Sadat declared that Egypt would never accept any Israeli presence in Sinai under a peace settlement; that it will insist on Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in the June, 1967 war; and would demand that Egyptian troops be allowed to cross the Suez Canal following an Israeli pull-back from its banks as part of an interim arrangement to reopen the Suez Canal. Political circles here said today that if Sadat's remarks represent Egypt's last word, an interim agreement on Suez is doomed. Sadat said Egypt rejected demilitarization of Sinai or any form of Israeli presence at the Sharm el-Sheikh stronghold. He would accept demilitarized zones astride the pre-June, 1967 Israel-Egyptian borders. However, the Egyptian leader reiterated that he would accept an interim settlement only if it were the first step in a timetable of total Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Israel in contrast, insists that a Suez agreement must be entirely separate from an overall peace settlement with Egypt.

Scott, Jackson Say Support For Israel's Survival Transcends Party Lines

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA)--Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott and Washington (State) Democrat Henry Jackson agreed here that United States foreign policy transcends party views when it involves support for Israel's survival. The two legislators offered this bipartisan view at the concluding session Friday of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) which held its 12th annual national policy conference here and also marked Israel's 23rd anniversary. After reading prepared remarks that "we are providing Israel with arms she must have to protect herself," and that "this policy must and will continue," Scott told the audience, "I can candidly tell you that this policy will continue under any administration of either party." Addressing Scott as much as the 350 AIPAC delegates; Jackson said, "We do work together on the Middle East." He also said, "as Senator Scott has said, let Egypt and Israel sit down at the conference table to work things out and not have this Mickey Mouse operation of one in one room and one in another and the United Nations somewhere way off." Scott said that the U.S. "should insist that Arab states recognize Israel and obligate themselves to work for attainment and maintenance of genuine peace." He said he fully supported Israel's insistence on defensible borders, adding that Israel "can no longer live in a state of siege with an international canopy which is swiftly blown away by the first blustering wind from Cairo out of Moscow."

For the second time in two weeks, Jackson criticized the Mideast views of Secretary of State William P. Rogers. He said Rogers' acceptance of a "military police force involving both Russian and American troops in the Mideast would sanction a permanent Soviet military presence and would constitute a threat to the Middle East and world peace." He said U.S. policy was being made with "a naive optimism as to Soviet intentions." He again urged phased withdrawal of Soviet forces from Egypt as part of the overall peace settlement. Irving Kane, Cleveland attorney and president of AIPAC read a message from Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine who was assailed at the AIPAC luncheon Thursday by Gerald Ford of Detroit, Republican leader in the House who charged that Muskie made a remark to Soviet Premier Alexsei Kosygin during a visit to Moscow last January which tended to undermine the credibility of American deterrent to growing Soviet military involvement against Israel." In reply, Muskie said he had made it clear in his visit to Cairo and Moscow that he was committed to Israel's survival and that in Moscow he urged boundary adjustments to implement Israel's security. Sen. George McGovern, South Dakota Democrat, told AIPAC and the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington joint session Thursday night that American experience in Indochina must not prevent the U.S. from maintaining Mideast power balance and Israel's survival. He said American leaders had the duty "to educate our constituents to the vital distinction between preventing war in the Mideast by placing the American guaranty behind Israel's right to survive and perpetuating the war in Indochina."

Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said it was against the "grim memory of the holocaust" that "many of us have come to think of Israel as a test case for our civilization, for if we fail in our responsibility to humanity a second time could we ourselves sur-

vive? He said that whenever the U.S. has hesitated to provide Israel with requested arms, in the hope that this might initiate mutual restraint, the Russians have unhesitatingly "escalated their involvement by sending more MIGs and missiles to Egypt. An APAC policy statement, presented by Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, appealing to the Nixon administration to reconsider its stand on territorial issues so that Israel might negotiate freely and establish agreed and secure boundaries, was adopted by the conference.

Thant Trying To Dispel Impression That Jarring Mission Is Superseded By Rogers

GENEVA, May 2 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General U Thant is trying to dispel a growing impression that the peace mission of UN mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring may have been superseded by U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers' current Middle East diplomacy. Responding to reports that he and Jarring agreed at a meeting here last week to suspend the Jarring mission at least temporarily until the results of Rogers' present Mideast tour can be assessed, Thant told newsmen that the latest Rogers initiative was intended primarily to help Dr. Jarring continue with his mission. Thant said that the Swedish diplomat who is currently back at his ambassadorial post in Moscow would return to New York in mid-May. "We both agree that, although there is at present no real basis for Ambassador Jarring's immediate return to New York, it will be desirable for him to be in New York for a short period about the middle of May for further exchange of information and views, that is between Ambassador Jarring and myself," Thant said. Asked by reporters during a press conference here Thursday if this was because Secretary Rogers was attempting to get a partial agreement between Israel and Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal and there was consequently no need for Dr. Jarring to enter the picture, Thant replied that he and Dr. Jarring did not have in mind "any particular activity of any particular government." He observed, "We took into consideration all factors, and both of us feel that there might be some justification for his return to New York about the middle of next month. Of course, the duration of his stay in New York will depend primarily on the nature of those developments."

Thant stressed that Rogers' try for an interim arrangement was exclusively an American initiative, although, he said, the U.S. government has briefed him on it. He said that he had been "briefed fully" by the American UN Ambassador, George Bush, before he went to Geneva and that Rogers assured him personally when they met in Costa Rica two weeks ago that "the efforts of the United States government in bringing about agreement regarding the Suez Canal were directed primarily to help Ambassador Jarring's efforts." Asked if Rogers' visit to the Mideast might interfere with Dr. Jarring's mission, Thant said the U.S. government assured him that its overall purpose was to help Dr. Jarring promote a settlement within the framework of the Security Council's Resolution 242. He said his own personal assessment would have to await Rogers' return. Asked if he had any reason to believe that the situation will be better for peace in mid-May than now, Thant said he felt only that there might be some developments in the next week or two that would justify further consultations between himself and Dr. Jarring in New York. Thant conceded that the Jarring talks are presently at an impasse but said he did not "want to apportion blame to any party." He said that in general he believed "that now is the moment for the parties to move toward the full implementation of the Security Council resolution... Time is not on the side of peace. That is why I have been advocating and urging the parties to come to a speedy settlement."

Jewish Women Ask For Investigation Of Mixed Marriages

LONDON, May 2 (JTA)--A conference organized under the auspices of the Joint British Affiliate of the International Council of Jewish Women passed a resolution asking the Beth Din and other rabbinical authorities in this country to set up a working committee to investigate the problem of mixed marriages and provide suggestions for dealing with this crisis.

Jewish Student Groups Use May Day To Demand Amnesty For Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA)--Various Jewish student groups marked the major Soviet holiday of May Day with demonstrations protesting the plight of Soviet Jewry and demanding that amnesty be granted to those Soviet Jews held as political prisoners in prison camps, mental asylums and in jail awaiting trial. More than 60 members of the Radical Zionist Alliance, an umbrella group of various Jewish student groups, marched yesterday near the Soviet Mission to the UN waving placards that charged the Soviets with betraying the ideals of the revolution, amongst which, the protestors asserted, included self-determination for all peoples. "Anti-Semitism is counter-revolutionary" read on placard while another proclaimed "Free all Soviet political prisoners!" One sign written in Russian demanded "Let My People Go!" while another Russian sign stated "The Russian homeland is Russia; the Jewish homeland is Israel." The RZA protestors called upon the Soviet Union "to give genuine expression to the Socialism whose victory they are celebrating this May Day" by granting the following three concessions to Soviet Jews: freeing all political prisoners; cancelling all up-coming trials of political prisoners and granting immediate exit permits to all Soviet Jews who have requested them and will request them in the future.

On Friday, 50 members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ) also demonstrated in front of the Soviet Mission, bearing a black maypole from which a noose and blue-and-white streamers were suspended. Students marched around the maypole carrying replicas of the new Soviet Jewry liberation flag and giant photos of imprisoned Russian Jews. Glenn Richter, SSSJ national coordinator, noted the chronological coincidence of Israel's Yom Haatzmaut, which he said represents independence, and the USSR's May Day, which, he asserted, represented "repression." Richter told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a Soviet official photographed the demonstration with a tiny camera. Both the SSSJ and the RZA called for the release of Ruth Aleksandrovich, the 24-year-old nurse from Riga, now awaiting trial. In a related incident yesterday, while a May Day rally was being held in Union Square, eight members of the National Renaissance Party, a neo-Nazi group headquartered in the Yorkville section of New York City, held a counter-demonstration of their own. The neo-Nazis marched in a small cordoned off area ringed by police wearing red arm bands with the sign of the thunderbolt emblazoned on them (the insignia of the NRP), and waved placards reading "No mercy for Red Jewish scum" and "No American troops to help Jews in the Middle East."