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Women Will Ring Soviet Embassy Bell Until Russian Jewish Woman is Released

LONDON, May 4 (JTA)--A group of 35 Jewish women who have kept a 24 hour vigil outside of the Soviet Embassy here said today that they would send a delegation to "ring the Embassy's bell" at 11 o'clock every morning to inquire whether Roiza Palatnik, a Jewish girl imprisoned in Odessa, has been released. They said the inquiries would continue until Miss Palatnik is freed. She was arrested last Dec. 1 after applying for a visa to go to Israel and is being held without trial or any specific charges brought against her. The girl reportedly began a hunger strike several days ago and is said to be in poor health. Efforts to obtain her release have failed so far. According to reports from Russia, several lawyers who volunteered to defend her were warned off the case by local authorities. The Women's Zionist Federation sent a telegram on behalf of its 20,000 members to the Soviet Embassy today asking for Miss Palatnik's release. They said, "We cannot believe that the Soviet Union, the country of revolution, would wish the death of an innocent woman by starvation." On Sunday, the Embassy accepted a letter from a group of Jewish women but refused their request for a meeting with the Ambassador's wife.

Rogers To Address Knesset Security, Foreign Affairs Committee

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers, at his own request, will address the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security committee here Friday and will answer questions from members, it was announced today. Rogers is expected to arrive in Israel at noon Thursday from Cairo. The Secretary of State requested the meeting through the usual Foreign Ministry channels which brought the matter to the committee's attention. The meeting will be a working session in the Knesset chambers. Rogers will be accompanied by members of his party which include Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco. On the Israeli side, only committee members will attend. But Uri Avnery of the opposition Haolam Hazeh faction demanded 'n the Knesset today that representatives of factions other than those on the committee be invited. Under agreement between the majority parties, membership on the foreign affairs committee is restricted to the Labor Alignment and the National Religious Party, coalition partners, and Gahal, the largest of the opposition factions. Some observers said that Secretary Rogers' desire to address key Israeli legislators in private paralleled Foreign Minister Abba Eban's now famous breakfast meeting with 40 U.S. Senators when he was last in Washington. At that meeting, Eban explained Israel's position in the Middle East conflict; apparently with some success. It was doubted here however that Rogers would try to or could convert Knesset members to his views as embodied in the Rogers Plan.

Rogers' first full fledged working session with Premier Golda Meir and senior Cabinet ministers will be held on Thursday afternoon, shortly after his arrival. He is scheduled to make a brief air tour of Galilee and the Golan Heights on Friday following a television interview. He will hold "summing up" talks with Mrs. Meir, probably attended by Eban, Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Defense Minister Moshe Dayan in Tel Aviv. Rogers may also have a private meeting with Mrs. Meir before he leaves on Saturday for Rome. Observers here noted that Rogers' visit has elicited almost no threats, fulminations or demonstrations by Palestinian terrorists of the type that greeted Sisco during his Mid-east trip last year. The only incident reported so far was a march by 10,000 fedayeen several miles from the Beirut airport when Rogers landed there yesterday. Lebanese troops armed with machine guns sealed off the roads to the airport and were given orders to shoot and kill any intruders. The protestors carried effigies of Rogers and King Hussein of Jordan whom they denounced as an oppressor of the Palestinian people. Some observers noted that the relatively muted demonstration and the absence of other demonstrations indicated that the terrorists were at their ebb tide in morale and that the Arab governments had taken the necessary steps to quash any untoward anti-American demonstrations in order to conduct talks with Rogers in a calm atmosphere.

Jews Hold Silent Vigil At Soviet Exhibition Site

LIEGE, Belgium, May 4 (JTA)--Belgian authorities permitted large numbers of Jews to hold a silent demonstration near the Congress Palace, yesterday where a Soviet exhibition, billed as "The Soviet Decade," was drawing to a close. Throughout the day, Jews marched slowly past the Palace gates guarded by about 15 policemen. They carried banners urging freedom for Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate. Police granted a permit for the demonstration after the organizers promised to avoid incidents and not to try to enter the Palace grounds. A week ago 20 youths of the Belgian Jewish Students Front set white mice loose at a Soviet fashion show. Belgium's Chief Rabbi Robert Dreyfus identified himself with yesterday's peaceful demonstration but sharply condemned the disruptive tactics employed by some Jewish groups on previous occasions.

Aleksandrovitch Trial Now Set For May 24

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA)--Ruth Aleksandrovitch, the 24-year-old Jewish nurse arrested in Riga last October for alleged anti-Soviet activities, will go on trial May 24, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry said today, basing its report on information from Soviet Jewish sources. To mark the occasion, the SSSJ will hold a Student Strike for Soviet Jewry on May 27. Students will be asked to leave classes and march from the United Nations to the Soviet Mission, a distance of almost two miles. The march will be cosponsored by the Jewish High School Alliance.

Mideast Is Main Topic In Schumann-Gromyko Talks In Moscow

PARIS, May 4 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann left for Moscow today for a three-day meeting with his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko in which the Middle East situation and the current

Jewish Brothers, Graduates Of Yeshiva U., Say Life In Russia Was Dehumanizing

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA)—Jewish twin brothers from the Soviet Union who couldn't speak English when they arrived in the U.S. two years ago, are celebrating their new-found academic and cultural freedom with twin bachelor's degrees from Yeshiva University prior to entering the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in August. The 23-year-old brothers, Gabriel and Silim Goldberger, who live with their family in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, emigrated from Riga in the spring of 1969. Since then, with the aid of the New York Association for New Americans, a part of HIAS, Yeshiva University faculty and friends, they've gone through a crash course on Americanization. Discussing their life in Russia, the twins said, "We were made to feel like strangers in our native land." They were expelled from the university in Riga after school officials learned they wished to emigrate. "We waited five years for permission to leave the country. Month after month we'd visit the Interior Ministry, whose only reply was 'you ask, we decide.' There is no logic to their method of issuing exit permits. Suddenly you are told you can go, and you might have to leave within a few days," they said. They explained that applying for an exit permit was tantamount to announcing your disloyalty as a citizen, "with the consequences leading to loss of job or being expelled from a university and losing all prospects of life in the USSR."

They feel the continuing demonstrations, producing a new world awareness of the plight of Soviet Jewry, is one of the major factors in the Soviet government's relaxation of immigration restrictions. "Soviet policy towards its Jewish population actually hasn't changed," they said, "it is the Jews who have changed." They contrast the current period with that of the 1950's, when the government sent their father to jail. "He had been elected to head the city's Jewish community," they said, "and was soon approached by the KGB (secret police) who demanded that he turn informer against his brethren. He refused, and was sent to jail for eight months." Today's Soviet Jewish youth, more active and outspoken, do not relate to the more terrible periods of Soviet history, they said. "They are not heroes, but they realize that for them, deprived of their culture and tradition, schools and synagogues, life for a Jew there is no life at all." Their life has been altogether different in their adopted land. They've worked during the summer for New York's Urban Corps in a hospital and laboratory, their father is a supervisor of kashruth, and their 24-year-old sister, a pianist, is preparing to graduate from Manhattan School of Music. Their mother is a working housewife. The brothers said they did not hate the Russians. They feel that what is most important about the recent international atmosphere is the new sense of identity that has arisen between American and Soviet Jewry.

Rabbi Warns Jewish Conservative Backlash No Answer To Radical Left

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., May 4 (JTA)—Alignment with ultra-conservatives cannot be the answer of the Jewish community to the ominous threat which the New Left poses to Jewish survival in America as well as in Israel, Rabbi Louis Bernstein, first vice-president of the Rabbinical Council of America, declared today in addressing 500 delegates at the Council's convention. While the New Left constitutes a great social and physical danger to the Jewish community in the United States "it would be the height of folly on our part to expect that a backlash towards the right by the Jewish community would solve our problem." On the contrary, it would only encourage growing defections of our youth from the Jewish community," Rabbi Bernstein said. "We must not be backed into a corner of blind apologetics for the status quo, or hysterical flag-waving. Such blind expediency can only backfire and is morally bankrupt."

What is needed, Rabbi Bernstein continued, is a convincing demonstration "on our part that Jews are not wedded to any 'establishment' but that it welcomes creative and constructive discontent—the very hallmark of all religion. We must battle fearlessly against the idolization of any particular ideology and must muster the moral courage to criticize failings encountered in all institutions." At another session which was dedicated to Jewish education, Rabbi Dr. Bernard Bergman, president of the National Council of Torah Education, today declared, "The continued failure of the Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds to reorder their priorities to give substantial and meaningful support to Jewish education was sharply criticized." Rabbi Bergman points out, "This is one of the most distressing ills of contemporary American Jewish life." Dr. Bergman appealed to all the members of the RCA to mobilize all political forces to encourage the advancement of government aid to all religious schools.

Black, White Students Battle In Brooklyn College After Kahane Speaks On Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA)—A melee broke out today at Brooklyn College involving hundreds of black and white students shortly after Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the Jewish Defense League, delivered a speech at the Student Center on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Eyewitnesses said the fighting erupted after the speech when Rabbi Kahane and about 40 of his followers entered a room usually occupied by black students. Words were exchanged and fists began flying. Scores of police hurried to the campus and formed a chain separating the two groups. One student was arrested. One campus guard was reportedly hit on the head by a chair and was taken to Kings County Hospital. Rabbi Kahane was quoted as saying he and his followers would return to the college tomorrow.

Soviet Jew, Arrested Last August And Awaiting Trial, Transferred To Kishinev Prison

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA)—Hillel Schur, one of a group of Jews arrested last August and still awaiting trial in Leningrad, has been transferred to Kishinev prison, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from informed sources here. No reason was given for his transfer but the preparation of his case is reported to have been completed. No charges have been published. Schur and his fellow prisoners are believed to have been accused of anti-Soviet propaganda. Their case is linked to the June, 1970 alleged aerial hijack plot. Schur has been held incommunicado since his arrest. Neither members of his family nor his attorney, Luria, have been permitted to see him, the sources said.

JTA NEWS ANALYSIS

FRANCE TRYING TO DISPEL ILLUSIONS ABOUT MIRAGES IN LIBYA

By GERARD FELLOUS, Chief Editor, French JTA Daily News Bulletin

The Mirage jets that France agreed to sell Libya last year have come home to roost. The government is frankly worried, not how to refuse delivery of the supersonic war planes to the Libyans but how to appease local and international opinion which has become increasingly unfavorable toward the deal in view of recent developments. It may be remembered that France announced the sale of 110 Mirages to Libya a year ago after much hemming and hawing, denials and semi-denials that any such deal was brewing. What embarrassed the French was their continued embargo of 50 Mirages bought and paid for by Israel, planes the late President Charles de Gaulle refused to deliver because France was not going to provide arms to either side in the Middle East conflict. The Libyans were hardly neutrals. The Mirage sales may have been first negotiated with the flaccid government of pro-Western King Idris but the planes would be received by the hard line military clique that ousted him. The Libyan coup placed that country squarely in line with Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser who, at that juncture, was waging his "war of attrition" with Israel across the Suez Canal. Since Libya's minuscule airforce could hardly absorb 50 of the most sophisticated of the world's fighting aircraft, legitimate fears were aroused that the French jets might find their way into Egyptian hands. Paris was quick to inform the world that the contract with Libya stipulated that there was to be no transfer of the mirages to a third power. Should that take place, the French reserved the right to suspend deliveries.

There the matter rested for many months until France's Arab friends created a new source of embarrassment abroad and new outcries against the Mirage deal at home. The projected federation of Libya with Egypt and Syria, announced in Cairo last month, increased the likelihood that Egyptian and possibly Syrian pilots would be flying the Mirages against Israel some day. The federation, which is expected to be ratified by the three powers following popular referendum next September, is essentially a military alliance. But if the three nations are to have one capital, one flag and one national assembly they will certainly have one armed force, meaning that the arms of one will be at the disposal of all. Under such circumstances, could the French claim that Libyan jets sent to Cairo were transferred to a "third power?" Adding to France's uneasiness was the revival of the old Khartoum summit formula by the three principles of the new federation--no recognition, no negotiation, no peace with Israel. Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi, Libya's president, said pointedly that the Mirages were not intended for display at a museum in Tripoli. One of his cabinet ministers promptly explained that the Mirages would only be used to defend Libyan territory. Paris was not impressed. Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann emphasized to the press that France still holds to the non-transfer clause of its contract with Libya and will invoke it should there be any hint of violation.

Law-Makers Mounting Pleas For Government To Act

Schumann recalled that Premier Jacques Chaban-Delmas said in January, 1970, "If the (Libyan) Mirages were to change direction--and we would know it very quickly--then the others would be embargoed." Deliveries of the jets are spaced over two years. Some French law-makers however believe the handwriting is clearly on the wall and want the government to act. One member of parliament, M. Stehlin, submitted a written inquiry to the Foreign Minister asking what "measures he intends to take and what instructions he has already given to stop the supply of arms to Libya." Andre Montell, chairman of the French Senate's foreign affairs committee called on the government to alter its Middle East embargo policy "in light of the new politics in the Mediterranean." So far, President Georges Pompidou has sent no warning to Libya nor has he given any new instructions regarding the deliveries of the jets. Pompidou, at least publicly, sees no signs that the Libyans intend to transfer their Mirages to Egypt. He seems to be hoping for a reassuring statement from Tripoli which has not been forthcoming. Libya has received its first four Mirage 3-Bs which are two-seater jets used for training purposes. About 50 of the Mirages are multi-purpose fighters similar to those sold but not delivered to Israel. About 30 are Mirage 3-Es, the latest model equipped with highly sophisticated navigational devices that enable them to fly blind and attack ground targets in all weather.

The French Air Force center at Dijon has become a training school for 21 Libyan pilots learning how to fly the Mirages. Flight engineers and wireless officers are being trained by instructors from the Marcel Dassault Co. which manufactures the Mirage. France has also sent a dozen experts from Dassault and Snecma, manufacturer of the Mirage's "Atar" jet engine to Libya to train maintenance personnel to service the planes after delivery. They are located at the former American Wheelus Air Force Base taken over by the Libyans and now called Okba. As these developments unfold, Israel is maintaining a low profile in Paris. Ambassador Asher Ben Nathan reportedly has instructions from Jerusalem to request "clarification" from the French Foreign Ministry on the status of the Libyan deal in light of the new federation. The Israelis apparently are anxious not to cause further embarrassment to the French government at this time. They still hope that the Pompidou government may soon lift the de Gaulle embargo, at least to the extent of selling some military hardware to Israel. The French government appears to want to remove the Mirages from the realm of politics and leave it as a commercial question. There have been many signs recently that both Israel and France are interested in ironing out their differences and improving their relations. Technical cooperation has already begun. At the Paris air show at Le Bourget this month, Israel will display its first home grown commercial jet, the twin engine "Arava" transport. The French firm now working on the supersonic "Concorde" may be licensed to manufacture a French version of the "Arava" to be known as "Sherpa."

1,000 Riga Jews In Pilgrimage To Graves Of Martyrs Of Nazi Era

LONDON, May 4 (JTA)--Soviet authorities did not interfere but watched from a distance when more than 1,000 Riga Jews participated in a pilgrimage to the graves of martyrs of the Nazi era on the outskirts of the city Saturday, it was learned here today. According to the information the pilgrimage attracted many more local Jews than in previous years.