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Nine Soviet Jews Go On Trial Tuesday: Soviets Trying To Keep Trial Secret

WASHINGTON, May 9 (JTA)--Nine Soviet Jewish men arrested last June and July for anti-Soviet activities will go on trial in Leningrad on Tuesday, reliable Jewish sources reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The sources said the Soviet government was trying to hush up the impending trial, which it plans to hold in secret. The defendants will be Viktor David Boguslavsky, 31; Grigory Ilya (Hillel) Butman, 38; David Iserovich Chernoglaz, 31; Solomon (Shlomo) Dreizner, 39; Anatoly Moiseyevich Goldfeld, 25; Lassaï Kaminsky, 41; Lev Leibovich Korenblit, 49; Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever, 31; and Lev Naumovich Yagman, 31. The sources also reported that as of now, three other Riga Jews are scheduled to go on trial with Ruth Aleksandrovich on May 24: Boris Maftsier, 24; Mikhail Shepshelovich, 28; and Arkady Shpilberg, 33. Maftsier and Shpilberg were arrested last August; Miss Aleksandrovich, 24; and Shepshelovich were arrested last October.

These four are the last of the Riga Jewish prisoners; nine of them were sentenced in Leningrad last December and one was released. The Jewish sources said that of 40 Jewish prisoners in the USSR in recent years, 16 have been sentenced and 24 await trial in Riga and Kishinev. Nine Jews went on trial in Leningrad on Jan. 6, but the proceedings were terminated without explanation after 10 minutes. Of the defendants reported by sources then, seven were the same as those now reported to be going on trial in Leningrad May 11--Boguslavsky, Butman, Dreizner, Kaminsky, Lev Korenblit, Mogilever and Yagman. The other two Jan. 6 defendants are not on the new list--Mikhail Korenblit, brother of Lev Korenblit, and Viktor Shtilbans, 28.

Catholic Official Rejects Reports Pontiff Favors Internationalization Of Jerusalem

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., May 9 (JTA)--Msgr. John M. Oesterreicher, director of the Institute of Judaean-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University here, has rejected allegations that Pope Paul VI favors internationalization of Jerusalem. Msgr. Oesterreicher--who was born Jewish and speaks Hebrew but considers himself both a Jew and a Christian--noted in a statement that "When one knows that his (Paul's) comments were elicited by an alarmist letter from three Jordanian bishops who envisioned an Israeli plot to oust Christian Arabs from the city and impede free access to the shrines, then the Pope's words appear rather low-keyed." He added that "it would be insulting his intelligence to assume that he favors a Jerusalem governed, or supervised, by a body in which Messrs. Mao and Brezhnev will have vote and veto." What Pope Paul spoke of in St. Peter's Square on March 14, said Msgr. Oesterreicher, was "the recognition of the extraordinary requirements of the Holy Places" and "pluralism of historic and religious rights."

The three Jordanian bishops the monsignor referred to had written to Pope Paul earlier this year to stress that Jerusalem had been "traditionally united with Jordan," that the construction in Judea would turn the Old City into a "suffocating ghetto," and that a "Hebrew belt" of new settlements for refugees would subject Christians and Muslims "to a control and to discrimination." The bishops, said Msgr. Oesterreicher, were engaging in "a gross manipulation of the 'problem of Jerusalem,'" and were not only "alarmists" but were "pretend(ing) to sound the alarm in the name of Jesus." Msgr. Oesterreicher elaborated: "Jordan...must have been created on the drawing board. But there can be no doubt that the territory east of the River Jordan, largely desert, was carved out of Palestine and given to Emir Abdullah, the son of the Sherif of Mecca, in 1922, as a token of gratitude for his family's support of Great Britain and as compensation for his brother Feisal's loss of the throne of Syria."

Continuing, Msgr. Oesterreicher stated: "For years, Transjordan was, though not in name, a British colony...Jordan would still be in possession of the Old City had it not joined the Six-Day War against the warning of Israel...If the brief possession of the Old City by Jordan--1949-1967--can be called a tradition, then the stationing of the Soviet army of occupation in Czechoslovakia is a tradition as well, and Tibet can be called a traditional part of Red China." Msgr. Oesterreicher also criticized L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, for deploring, among other things, the "occupation of the 'Arab sector'" of Jerusalem by Israel. "These tears are synthetic because of what was left unsaid," he commented, noting that "Israel wrested the Old City from Jordan, but only after the latter had attacked." Regarding Israeli construction in Jerusalem, the monsignor observed: "Why the housing of Jews who have been poor and deprived should radically change Jerusalem's spiritual character is not clear to me. I would have thought that sheltering the homeless was a work of compassion... Christians who have not yet understood the signs of the time, and thus the meaning of Israel's rejuvenation, will have to reconcile themselves to the fact that Jerusalem is a Jewish city, in origin, destiny and significance."

Interim Solution Still On Government Agenda; No Memo On Suez Given By Dayan To U.S.

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported to the Cabinet today on their talks with Secretary of State William P. Rogers here Thursday and Friday. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources that the government is now engaged exclusively in the search for an interim solution and the quest for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict is not being pursued at all at this time. The source said that the view at today's Cabinet meeting was that "at present the Egyptians are carrying the ball." Israel's ultimate aim however remains a total and comprehensive settlement, the JTA was told. Defense Ministry spokesmen tonight denied news reports alleging that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan had submitted a memorandum regarding a partial settlement of the Suez Canal issue to Secretary of State William P. Rogers or to the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco during their talks last week.

Sapir Says He Submitted Formal Request To Rogers For \$300 Million Loan

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir disclosed today that he had submitted a formal request to Secretary of State William P. Rogers for a \$300 million low interest loan from the U.S. and a \$200 million grant. He said he made the request when he met with Rogers here Friday during the Secretary's brief visit to Israel. He said Rogers promised to convey the request to President Nixon. Sapir made the disclosure in reply to a question from a member of an Israel Bond Organization delegation from Los Angeles. He noted that for the past 10 years Israel has received no grants from the U.S. and that even earlier most American aid has been in the form of loans, though on easy terms. In reply to another question, Sapir said he didn't think the U.S. government would exert pressure on Israel by means other than those customary between friendly states. The \$500 million U.S. economic aid for Israel was approved by the Nixon administration last year but the proportion between grant and loan was not fixed.

Protests Issued On Behalf Of Two Soviet Jewish Prisoners; Friends Worried About Zand

LONDON, May 9 (JTA)--Pioneer Women meeting here issued a protest against the detention of Miss Roitza Palatnik and the treatment of Mrs. Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov. Reports read at the meeting about the two Soviet Jewish women stated that Miss Palatnik from Odessa, said to be in her 20's, was no longer in solitary confinement but in a women's prison awaiting trial. Miss Palatnik was arrested on Dec. 1 after applying for an exit visa to go to Israel and on April 22 she went on a hunger strike. The meeting was also told that Mrs. Zalmanson is now in her ninth month of pregnancy. She is serving a 10-year sentence in Siberia as one of the defendants in the trial of the Leningrad 11 last Dec. She is the wife of Edward Kuznetsov, one of the 11, who is serving a 10-year prison term after his death sentence was commuted. The Observer reported friends are anxious about the fate of Mikhail Zand, the Jewish professor who was fired in March from his job at the Institute for Eastern Studies in Moscow after he and other Soviet Jews were arrested on March 26 in the office of Prosecutor General Roman A. Rudenko for staging a sit-in. Dr. Zand was subsequently released after staging a two-week hunger strike. After his release from prison Dr. Zand promised his friends an answer on his request to emigrate to Israel by April 28. Instead, the Observer report noted, he was called in a day before to the offices of the MVD and MGB security official and questioned as well as threatened. There is no further word, according to the report, as to when Zand will leave.

Anti-Aircraft Gunners Fire At Egyptian Planes During Overflight

TEL AVIV, May 9 (JTA)--Israeli anti-aircraft gunners opened fire today at two Egyptian planes that penetrated into the Israeli airspace in the Sinai. An Israeli communique issued this evening said that two Egyptian Sukhoi-7 planes flew over the Israeli position on the eastern side of the Suez Canal at its northern section. This overflight was in violation of the cease-fire. A complaint was lodged with the United Nations observers headquarters in Jerusalem.

Israel Bond Organization, Union Meet To Avoid Strike By 500 Employees

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA)--Representatives of the Israel Bond Organization and the Community and Social Agency Employees, Local 1707, AFL-CIO will meet tomorrow in an effort to avert a strike by 500 professional and clerical workers at 60 branches of the Israel Bond Organization. A spokesman for the bond organization told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the demands of the union were "inordinately high" and that "the State of Israel cannot afford to grant them." Erik Strong, representing Local 1707, told the JTA that "we are hopeful of avoiding another strike, but management has resumed its customary intransigent position." The union has threatened to go on strike at midnight next Friday if a new contract is agreed on by then, Strong said. The Israel Bond Organization spokesman said negotiations were continuing and "we hope that a satisfactory settlement can be reached before the expiration of the contract." Strong noted that there were walkouts of several days each at contract time in 1967 and 1969 because employees then, as now, refused to work without a contract.

Strong said that in a secret ballot last week, the workers voted to "remain steadfast" by "an overwhelming" margin. He also stated that negotiations have been going on for four weeks and that the two sides were "still far apart on most issues." Strong said that the local was asking "substantial increases" over what he said was the current \$95-a-week minimum and a \$14,000-a-year average. He said that the health plan provided by management was considered "not bad" by the workers but that the pension plan was considered "useless." The workers, he noted, were basing their demands for pay increases on the increase of the contributions to Israel Bond Organization which rose from \$105 million annually to \$175 million annually over the past four years. The Israel Bond Organization spokesman stated that the demands of the union would mean an additional cost of \$20,000 for each professional employe over the next two years in salary increases, severance pay increase, insurance and other fringe benefits. For administrative employes, he said, the additional cost for each would be \$19,000 annually and for clerical workers it would be \$10,000.

No Apparent Accord Reached On Interim Arrangement, Jarring Talks

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA)--Secretary of State Rogers' peace mission to the Middle East came and went with no apparent advancement toward an interim arrangement to reopen the Suez Canal or reactivation of the stalled Jarring talks. Rogers departed from Lydda Airport for Rome yesterday after a busy 43-hour visit to Israel during which he held two lengthy working sessions with Premier Golda Meir and her senior Cabinet ministers, briefly toured Old Jerusalem and, at the request of the Israelis, made a special flight over Sharm el-Sheikh. He sent his top aide, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco, back to Cairo for further talks with President Anwar Sadat. But Rogers urged the news media not to "attach any undue significance" to Sisco's back-tracking. There were indications that some progress had been made in Rogers' talks with Israeli leaders on the issue of American guarantees against violation of any interim Suez agreement and that Israel was prepared to be more "flexible" on the distance it would withdraw from the east banks of the Suez Canal if that turned out to be the only stumbling block to an interim arrangement. It was clear however that Israel

was committed to none of the proposals discussed with Rogers. Any commitment would have to be ratified by the full Cabinet and any withdrawal from the canal must be voted by the Knesset. The Rogers' mission, which many observers agree has superseded the Jarring talks, at least for the time being, seemed to have accomplished little that could not have been done through the normal channels of communication between Washington, Jerusalem and the Arab capitals. The Secretary of State visited four Arab countries before he landed in Israel last Thursday. Sisco's return to Cairo might have been unnecessary had Rogers' party gone to Israel before Egypt. Rogers disclosed that Sisco's return had been agreed to in advance with President Sadat "to further clarify some of the ideas that we discussed with him" in light of the visit to Israel. Obviously there was no important break-through in Jerusalem that had to be conveyed to Cairo. Nevertheless, Rogers called his brief sojourn in Israel "most worthwhile." In a statement before leaving from Lydda Airport yesterday he said "The talks have resulted in further clarification of the views of the Israeli government." He continued, "While we were in Cairo we had very specific discussions with the government of Egypt and I think that there has been some narrowing of the gap."

Reliable sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Rogers' assertion that there was "some narrowing of the gap" was not entirely an empty public relations gesture. The sources said that for the first time Rogers agreed to consider Israel's request for American guarantees against Soviet and Egyptian crossings of the Suez Canal in case of an interim arrangement. Up to now, it was disclosed, the U.S. refused to offer any guarantees except in the event of an overall peace settlement. Press reports that Israel agreed to permit a "token" Egyptian armed force were vehemently denied. It was also reported here that Rogers extracted a promise from Sadat to give Washington more time to engineer a Mideast settlement. Sadat reportedly told Rogers that he will be free from the restrictions of the tripartite federation agreement until Sept. 1 when a plebiscite is scheduled. The implication is that the current de facto cease-fire will continue until then. Rogers' Mideast tour did little to reassure the Israelis and some aspects of it irritated them. The Secretary of State appeared to be going out of his way not to offend the Arabs during his stay in Israel. On his flight to Sharm el-Sheikh aboard the U.S. Air Force jet that brought him to Israel, he announced pointedly that the pilot was instructed not to fly over any Arab territory held by Israel. Before entering East Jerusalem, Rogers' aides removed an Israeli flag from his limousine. Rogers further annoyed his hosts by cancelling a visit to a kibbutz which they had planned.

Rogers; Some Hope For Interim Accord; Final Mideast Settlement Soon Not Too Bright

ROME, May 9 (JTA)--Secretary of State William P. Rogers, on his way home from a five nation Middle East tour, said at a press conference here today that he had some hope for an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal but was not too optimistic over the prospects of a final Mideast peace settlement in the near future. Rogers said the fact that both sides--Israel and Egypt--were prepared to discuss the practical issues involved in reopening the waterway was of significance. He stressed that Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring remained the United Nations mediator for a Mideast peace. "America does not want to assume his role," Rogers declared. His aide, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco, reportedly conferred for several hours today with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to explain Israel's position after the talks in Jerusalem. There was no confirmation of reports from Beirut that Israel was willing to permit some kind of Egyptian presence on the east bank of the canal if that would remove the main obstacle to reopening the waterway. Italy's Foreign Minister Aldo Moro greeted Rogers here yesterday and expressed Italy's concern over the continuing Middle East conflict. Rogers said the results of his peace mission would become apparent only later. A brief communique issued after the meeting stated that Rogers had affirmed U.S. Mideast policy to be based on the Security Council's Resolution 242, and the Jarring peace mission, and promised that the U.S. and Italy would collaborate in a common endeavor to find a peaceful solution in the Mideast.

Rabbi Says Synagogues As They Are Presently Structured Are Spiritually Insolvent

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA)--A prominent Long Island rabbi who has served the pulpit for 40 years delivered a devastating attack today on the institution of the synagogue as it is presently constituted in the United States. Rabbi Max J. Routtenberg, of Temple B'nai Shalom, of Rockville Center, charged the American synagogue with "spiritual insolvency." He called for the elimination of the "giant synagogue," of the synagogue that "combines the shul and the pool" and "the synagogue which functions almost exclusively as a business enterprise." Rabbi Routtenberg addressed a symposium on the topic of "The American Synagogue--Has It A Future?" sponsored by "Judaism," the quarterly magazine of religious scholarship published by the American Jewish Congress. The symposium was attended by 200 rabbis and scholars. Rabbi Routtenberg called on the American Jewish community to "emancipate itself" from the synagogue "as it is presently constituted." He proposed the development of small synagogues with memberships of 150-200 families able to "concentrate on genuine functions of a synagogue--prayer, study, religious experience, youth and adult education, the family and its spiritual concerns and the celebration of events on the yearly Jewish calendar." He said he saw "vitality and hope" in the small Orthodox synagogues in the inner cities, mentioning the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, and in the new religious communes and "havurot." He declared, "The synagogue as a business enterprise must go for it is corrupting and paralyzing the functions of a synagogue." Rabbi Routtenberg also claimed that vesting organizational and administrative powers in boards of directors which never have central religious matters on their agenda must stop.

Mrs. Aleksandrovich Appeals To People Of Good Will To Aid Her Daughter, Ruth

LONDON, May 9 (JTA)--Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich arrived here from Israel today on her way to the United States to try to arouse public opinion on behalf of her daughter Ruth who has been imprisoned in Riga since last summer and is expected to go on trial shortly. She said she was appealing to the conscience of men and women of good will everywhere to raise their voices against the arrest of her daughter whose only crime was a desire to go to Israel. Mrs. Aleksandrovich's husband, who also had an exit visa, remained behind for the trial. She and her 19-year-old son arrived last month in Israel.

JTA NEWS ANALYSIS

WILL ROGERS' MIDEAST TRIP BE MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN JARRING MISSION?

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF, JTA Washington Bureau Chief

An American cartoon shows Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Arab garb astride a camel passing a skeleton in the desert and near it a diplomat's briefcase marked "Gunnar V. Jarring." The cartoon is captioned, "Rogers of Arabia." It is too soon to say whether the cartoon's implications are accurate, but observers here are talking about them. That Ambassador Jarring's mission has collapsed, if not ended, seems obvious from the fact that it was Rogers, not Jarring, who went to the Middle East despite assurances from Washington that his mission was still alive. Dr. Jarring returned to his ambassadorial post in Moscow when the interim Suez Canal idea surfaced in the wake of Israel's refusal to withdraw to its old frontiers. There is a suspicion that UN Secretary General U. Thant's rush to Europe to meet with his special Mideast mediator, as Mr. Rogers' travel plans became known, was to keep Dr. Jarring from resigning at an embarrassing time. Why Rogers decided to risk having his political bones bleached on the Middle East sands at this time is not yet clear to those who watch the scene. Rogers himself said that President Nixon asked him to make the trip and exchange ideas with the hope of achieving progress towards an interim settlement although not as much as a "breakthrough." But was that all he went for? It is granted that Secretaries of State have usually attended CENTO meetings and it would have been strange for Rogers to have gone to Ankara and not to have visited capitals a little further south.

Rather the visit, given all the complexities that have baffled diplomats for two decades had motives for State Department strategists other than to talk about the Suez Canal. The Department is not short of facts on the canal or views from any of the concerned governments. More basic was that Rogers was staking his personal prestige in seeking to reestablish strong credibility for the United States with Arab leaders and to tell them how far the U.S. was willing to go to end an increasingly vexing situation that included both Israel's security and Soviet ambitions. Just how far the U.S. was willing to go would depend on Arab concessions beyond simple recognition of Israel which could be violated just as the cease-fire standstill was violated. Although the U.S. is Israel's only major ally, Rogers appeared to be trying to mount offensives on two fronts. First, he seemed to wish to assure the Arabs that the U.S. is still their friend and that, under slightly ameliorated circumstances, he would go to Israel as a friendly mediator, a sort of "neutral" for the Arabs. In Israel, it looked like he was copying the style of certain top Israeli officials on their trips to Washington - visit with Israeli leaders who might influence Premier Golda Meir to soften her position. Rogers' itinerary by itself seemed to communicate that element in the planning of the trip. Less apparent were other aspects, some admittedly speculative. No Secretary of State could visit the Middle East without personally speaking with the King of Saudi Arabia. Even President Roosevelt, sick as he was in 1945, went from Yalta to meet with the kings of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan aboard a ship in the Suez.

Arab Oil, Tito's Expertise, Sadat's Hope For U.S. Aid Part Of Mideast Politics

After all, the U.S. draws \$500 million annually from Saudi Arabia's oil. Also, it was just possible that having invited King Faisal to visit Nixon at an as yet unspecified date, the monarch might listen to American suggestions on how to persuade Egypt's President Anwar Sadat to be less agreeable to the Russians. Sadat might be persuaded, since the king gives him about \$250 million a year to cover Egypt's loss because the canal is closed. For the Cairo visit, some items seemed apparent. Would Cairo substitute "police" for "troops" on the east side of the canal as a condition for its reopening? Would Cairo allow "use" of land in the Sinai to move Israel away from its "acquisition?" These modifications would help the Secretary of State in the inevitable confrontation with Israel on his "formula" of "insubstantial" border changes. But observers thought that Rogers had additional things in mind. What, for instance, would Egypt require from the U.S. in return for the resumption of diplomatic relations and the trade that would follow from that act of international normalcy, not to mention development by American companies of Egyptian oil fields? And how far is Cairo thinking of allowing the Soviet Union to build up its strength on the Nile and extend its influence over the Egyptian regime? An intriguing question raised in Washington was whether Tito, in his recent visit to Cairo, suggested some ways on how to treat the Soviets. No authority in Europe is more subtle in the international game than the ageless Yugoslavian President.

Tito shot down American planes but was able to extract "foreign aid" after turning against Stalin. When Khrushchev came to power, Tito maneuvered both the Kremlin and the White House into giving assistance to Yugoslavia but without becoming the "client" of either. Sadat could learn a few things from Tito who pushed Israel aside to become Arabs' friend. Perhaps that is why Sadat fired Egyptian Vice-President Aly Sabry, the Kremlin's best friend in Cairo. Was it to show the Soviets who is boss in Egypt and, thereby, please the Americans too on the eve of Rogers' visit, and get rid of a personal rival all at one time? Egypt needs economic help. If Russia will not provide adequate aid, America might. This formula worked for Tito for years. Why not for Sadat? But the complexity of international politics goes far beyond strategems like that. Rogers must wonder what the Arabs will really demand for an American-controlled force to stay in Sharm el-Sheikh and dominate Soviet shipping through the Suez Canal into the Indian Ocean with easy access to the oil riches of the Persian Gulf. And then, how much can a Secretary of State promise the Arabs on the Israeli question after what both Republican and Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill said in support of Israel just as he was about to visit the Arab governments? The Secretary of State must consider, as he comes homeward, what he can now recommend practically to the President. Even the best pundits shy away from that. But the hints will be coming soon.