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Soviet Jewry Group To Mobilize Governmental, Public Opinion Against New Trial

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- With another Leningrad trial of "anti-Soviet" Jews due to open tomorrow or Wednesday, the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry resolved today to mobilize governmental and public opinion against the proceedings as it did last December. The rallying cry, the Conference decided here today, will be: "Release the prisoners. No more trials." The Conference plans a telephone and telegram campaign to spark Jewish community organizations and individual Jews into action, as well as to impress the urgency of the cause upon President Nixon, the State Department, United Nations Ambassador George Bush, district attorneys and the media. The organizations represented in the AJCSJ will take part in a rally tomorrow afternoon to be sponsored by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The participants will march from the Soviet Mission to UN headquarters, almost two miles. The women's organizations are mobilizing their members for action too. Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovitch, the mother of Riga prisoner Ruth Aleksandrovich, is on her way to the United States--from Israel by way of London--to personalize the issue. Former Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg has agreed to telephone Soviet Prosecutor General Roman A. Rudenko in Moscow, but arrangements for this move have not yet been completed.

Meanwhile, Jewish sources reported that the list of this week's Leningrad defendants has been changed since last Friday. David Iserovich Chernoglaz and Anatoly Moyshevich Goldfeld have reportedly been returned to jail, with Mikhail Koreblit and Viktor Shtilbans taking their places in the dock. The defendants this week will thus be exactly the same as at the Leningrad trial that opened Jan. 6 and closed without explanation after 10 minutes. The other seven defendants now, as then, are Viktor David Boguslavsky, Grigory Ilya (Hillel) Butman, Solomon (Shlomo) Dreizner, Lassa Kaminsky, Lev Leibovich Korenblit (brother of Mikhail), Vladimir Osherovich Mogilever and Lev Naumovich Yagman. There was no immediate explanation for the sudden change in defendants.

WJC Congress Expresses Concern Over New Trials Of Soviet Jews

PARIS, May 10 (JTA) -- The International Affairs Department of the World Jewish Congress expressed today its "deep concern" at reports of an "imminent" new series of trials of Soviet Jews pending in Kishinev, Riga and Leningrad. "This development," it said, "is an ominous sequel to the Leningrad trials of last December, when two Jews were sentenced to death and others to long terms of imprisonment." The death sentences were commuted under the force of "worldwide protests," the WJC unit said, and "it had been hoped that there would be no aftermath of the Leningrad trials and that other trials reportedly postponed would be abandoned." But, said the International Affairs Department, "in the light of the latest reports, the World Jewish Congress renews its strongest appeal, which was so nobly responded to by world opinion last December, to the international community once again to make known its abhorrence of these political trials and to seek their complete termination."

Jewish Community Centers Proving Effective In Meeting Social Service Needs Abroad

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Jewish Community Centers, one of the few Jewish institutions native to the American scene, are proving effective in meeting major social service needs in Europe and Israel. This point was underscored at the recent meeting here of the Board of Directors of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Mordechai Bar-On, Director of the Youth and Hechalutz Department of the Jewish Agency of Israel and a member of the Jewish Agency Executive, reported that in addition to the YM & YWHA in Jerusalem, there are 8 to 10 Centers in the development towns of Israel, and 30 more are being planned. He asserted that the development of Jewish Community Center work in Israel will benefit from the experience of shlichim (Israeli workers), who are employed by Centers and camps in the U.S. in an exchange program sponsored by JWB and the Jewish Agency. There are currently 100 shlichim on the staffs of centers and camps in this country. Stephen Solender, consultant on Community Centers and Camps for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Europe, reported that there are more than 120 Community Centers in 13 countries in Europe. Some of them are multi-function Centers with quite a sophisticated practice, including two in Paris and one in Antwerp.

The European investment in JCC's totals \$10,000,000, Solender said. France, which has seen its Jewish population soar from 300,000 in 1957 until well over half a million today, has 50 Centers, 25 of which are in small communities. Solender expressed his concern that American Jews have forgotten their fellow Jews in Europe and that there is a real need for JWB to cooperate with European leaders in a number of fields of endeavor. Morton L. Mandel, Cleveland industrialist and national president of JWB, called attention to the fact that a plank in the JWB Study Report calls for the "intensification of the relationship of Centers to Israel and to world Jewry." He added, "Now is the time to talk about how three partners -- Israel, Europe and North America -- shall cooperate to further Jewish Community Center work." The Board members authorized the establishment of a North American Committee of JWB to provide an active link between JWB and the World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish Community Centers, to move toward "genuine collaboration," and "to provide truly new dimensions in international programming."

Hebrew Day Schools Praised As Best Way To Develop Jewish Leadership

MONSEY PARK, N.Y., May 10 (JTA) -- Declaring that American education has failed to bring about "any significant changes" in the social order, Dr. Seymour P. Lachman, chairman of the Jewish

Studies Committee for Secondary Schools of the American Association of Jewish Education, called today for a "basic reinterpretation of the value and importance of public education in enhancing rather than extinguishing a multi-cultural democratic experience." Dr. Lachman, who is also a member of the New York City Board of Education, praised the Hebrew Day Schools as "the best available means by which to develop a permanent leadership cadre that is steeped in Jewish learning and knowledge." Only in "such a total environment," he told the 100 delegates to a study conference sponsored by the Synagogue Council of America, "can we most adequately and intelligently develop our own unique Judaic message with the broadest application to all human concerns." He added that "What our troubled times might just need is the particular message of a Jewish education, with universal significance."

Referring to the role of public education, Dr. Lachman said there must be "an encouragement of authentic group identification if the diversity of our American democratic society is to be continued." The phenomenon of cultural pluralism will have to be more readily understood and incorporated within the curriculum, he observed. "The new pluralism might also emphasize a strengthening of religious pluralism," Dr. Lachman noted. He endorsed the so-called dual enrollment, or shared-time, plan, under which a child takes his religious classes in a religious school and his secular subjects in a public school. "The plan has the decided dual advantage of clearly not using public funds for direct religious instruction, and leaves the religious schools free of government control," he said. Dr. Lachman also stated: "We, as Jews who value the tradition of education in all its aspects, must demand the support of education by all levels of government, especially the federal government." But, he cautioned his audience, "the expenditure of increased sums does not guarantee the delivery of more and better service," and thus "accountability and productivity must be considered to a greater extent than heretofore."

Gap Narrows Between Israel, U.S., Egypt On Plan For Interim Canal Settlement

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- A very small but perceptible narrowing of the gaps between Israel, the United States and Egypt became evident today in the aftermath of Secretary of State William P. Rogers' talks in Jerusalem and Cairo on the subject of an interim settlement to reopen the Suez Canal. The extreme delicacy of the situation at this stage was reflected by the absence of any concrete information on the substance of Rogers' meetings with Israeli and Egyptian leaders or Assistant Secretary of State Joseph S. Sisco's second round of talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. (Rogers returned to Washington yesterday and will report to President Nixon today on his Mideast tour. He told newsmen at the airport that "a series of small steps toward a negotiated peace" had been taken.) Foreign Minister Abba Eban said on a television interview last night that a substantial gap still remained between the U.S. and Israeli positions and an even wider gap separated Israel and Egypt. The consensus among observers here was that Israel has yielded slightly on two basic points--the distance it is willing to pull back from the canal in the interests of an interim settlement and the extent to which it would permit Egypt to send personnel into the evacuated zone. Eban refused to assess the chances for an agreement.

Israel reportedly agreed to allow Egyptian "policemen" but not military personnel across the canal although it is aware that soldiers can become "policemen" merely by changing uniforms. Unconfirmed reports from Cairo said Egypt indicated a willingness to send only a "token" military force to the east bank of the canal without artillery and armor. Israel was stated to have said it would pull back from part but not all of the Bar-Lev line, the in-depth fortifications it has built on the east bank. Confusion was added by a Jerusalem Post report today that Premier Meir had stressed in her talks with Rogers that Israeli troops would continue to man the Bar-Lev line even if Egyptian personnel moved across the canal. According to most reports, concessions offered by Rogers dealt with American guarantees to Israel against possible Egyptian and Soviet violations of an interim agreement. Rogers reportedly backed away from his previous insistence that U.S. guarantees would be valid only in the event of an overall settlement but not for an interim agreement. There was no indication however of what Rogers said the U.S. would do should the Egyptians and Russians break their word and cross the canal by force. Apart from the questions of an Israeli pull-back, Egyptian re-occupation and American guarantees, there remains the fundamental differences between Jerusalem and Cairo over the nature of an interim settlement.

Rogers' initial talks with Premier Meir last Thursday were reported to have been abrasive. The American diplomat was said to have been sharply critical of Israel's position while Mrs. Meir refused to budge from her hard line. Reliable sources said a turning point occurred Friday when Defense Minister Moshe Dayan held lengthy talks with Assistant Secretary Sisco. Dayan was said to have offered the concessions on withdrawal and Egyptian canal crossings which broke the deadlock. The Israeli Government was quick to deny that Dayan had presented a memorandum to Rogers. The denial raised eyebrows since no one ever claimed that Dayan presented a memo to anybody. Earlier, the Foreign Ministry issued a written denial that Israel had agreed to an Egyptian military presence on the east bank of the canal. The denial was gratuitous since nobody claimed that Israel made such an agreement. Ministry circles refused to comment when asked if the term "military" in this context also included police. Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Yitzhak Rabin, left for Washington today after participating in the talks with Rogers. He said he had no knowledge of any plan that would bring Sisco back to Jerusalem after his talks in Cairo.

Mrs. Meir Postpones Report To Knesset On Talks With Rogers

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir has postponed her report to the Knesset on her talks with Secretary of State William P. Rogers here last week. A Cabinet spokesman informed the Knesset presidium today that Mrs. Meir would not be making her state-of-the-nation speech to parliament this week. The Premier was said to be waiting for the outcome of the second round of talks between Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and Egyptian leaders in Cairo. Foreign Minister Abba Eban will reply Wednesday to an opposition motion for debate on the Rogers visit. The Knesset presidium today recognized as urgent four motions for the agenda relating to the imminent trial of Jews in the Soviet Union.

SPECIAL NEWS BULLETIN**Report Zand, 24 Other Soviet Jews, Given Permission To Leave Russia**

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Professor Mikhail Zand and 24 other Soviet Jews have been given permission to leave the Soviet Union, it was reported this evening to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by a reliable source. According to the information, the decision to let the 25 leave was reached by the special police commission set up by the Soviet government in March to speed applications for emigration by Jews. The commission's office was reported last week to be closing today. There was no immediate identification of the 24 Jews nor any official confirmation by Soviet or Western sources that permission to leave was granted.

Rogers, Nixon Confer On Mideast Trip; Still Unresolved Problems, But Trip Useful

WASHINGTON, May 10 (JTA) -- As Secretary of State William P. Rogers reported today to President Nixon on his Middle East trip, White House spokesman Ronald Ziegler told newsmen that the Administration does not "underestimate the great problems that are unresolved." He added, however, that the trip was "helpful to the eventual solutions in the area and helpful for maintaining the momentum of the discussions." Ziegler said that Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, had joined the discussion 15 minutes after Rogers arrived at the White House. Ziegler refused to go into detail on any aspect of the negotiations towards reopening the Suez Canal pending "clarification of positions by the parties concerned." But he repeated Rogers' statement on his return yesterday to Washington that the trip was "very worth while" and said that there is some basis to the belief that the differences between the parties have narrowed somewhat. Ziegler said he was not prepared to give an assessment on whether the Soviets were playing a helpful role in efforts to reopen the canal. Asked about reports that the Israeli government had requested \$500 million in loans and grants, Ziegler referred newsmen to State Department spokesman Charles Bray's statement earlier today in which the latter said he would "neither confirm nor deny the reports."

Mrs. Aleksandrovich Discusses Plight Of Her Daughter With Soviet Embassy Official

LONDON, May 10 (JTA) -- Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich whose daughter Ruth is imprisoned and awaiting trial in Riga, visited the Soviet Embassy here today and was received by an attache with whom she discussed the case. Mrs. Aleksandrovich arrived in Israel only last month with her 18 year-old son, Avigdor, leaving behind her husband who chose to remain in Riga during their daughter's trial. According to reliable sources, the trials of Jews in Riga, Leningrad and Kishinev will begin within the next week or ten days. Mrs. Aleksandrovich is stopping over in London on her way to the United States. She said her purpose was to arouse world opinion on behalf of her daughter and other Soviet Jews imprisoned because they wanted to go to Israel. She said she has heard nothing directly from her daughter since her arrest last October. Meanwhile 70 Jewish women, dressed in black, continued to demonstrate outside the Soviet Embassy, appealing for the release of Ruth Aleksandrovich, Silva Zalmanson, who was convicted in the Leningrad hijack trial and is serving a prison sentence, and Roiza Palatnik, a 35 year-old librarian imprisoned in Odessa last Dec. 1 after she applied for an exit visa. Discussing her plans with newsmen, Mrs. Aleksandrovich said she would remain in the U.S. during the Riga trial. "I feel and deeply believe that the only way that we can save the 39 young Jews arrested in different towns in the Soviet Union is world public opinion," she said. Adding that she had "absolutely no feelings against the Soviet Union. They want to persuade the world that we are enemies of Russia but we are not enemies."

Lubavitcher Yeshiva Students On Way To Australia To Study At Rabbinical Seminary

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Six students of the Lubavitcher Yeshiva in New York left last night on the first leg of a journey to Australia where they will spend two years studying at the rabbinical seminary founded by the Lubavitcher movement in Melbourne four years ago. The office of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Menachem M. Schneerson, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the six young men were selected from among 200 candidates because of their special abilities as emissaries for the movement. A spokesman for Rabbi Schneerson said they would spend their summer vacation visiting Jewish communities in outlying areas of the sub-continent. The students, aged 18-21, after a brief sojourn in Israel, will visit Jewish communities in Iran and India before going to Australia. They are the third group of six American rabbinical students sent to study at the seminary in Melbourne.

Soviet Jewish Writer Publishes Chapters Of Autobiography; Arrested In 1948

LONDON, May 10 (JTA) -- Z. Vendroff, the prominent Soviet Jewish writer, who was 94 in January, has just published several chapters of his autobiography, according to reports from Moscow. He was said to be hale and hearty and hard at work on the remainder of the book. Vendroff was born in Russia and subsequently moved to New York, Warsaw and Moscow, where he was arrested during the Stalinist repression and sent to Siberia for six years (1948-54). Rehabilitated by the Khrushchev regime, Vendroff returned to Moscow and became the dean of Soviet Jewish writers. His collection of short stories last year was one of only six books in Yiddish published in the Soviet Union since the death of Stalin in 1953.

Sabry Under House Arrest; Dismissal Due To Reported Disagreement With Federation

JERUSALEM, May 10 (JTA) -- Former Vice President Aly Sabry of Egypt who was fired by President Anwar Sadat a week ago has been placed under house arrest, a reliable source reported here today. The source who was recently in Cairo, confirmed reports that Sabry's ouster was followed by the detention of several members of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party. Both he and the party reportedly took a dim view of the projected federation of Egypt with Libya and Syria. Their open criticism of the move was believed to have been the immediate cause of Sabry's abrupt dismissal. They recently accused President Sadat of diverging from the policies of the late President Nasser in domestic and foreign affairs.

Hadassah Appeals To Soviet Woman Official To Secure Release Of Jewish Women

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Hadassah resorted today to a woman-to-woman approach to try to secure the release of Ruth Alexandrovich and other Jewish women imprisoned in the Soviet Union after applying for emigration visas. Mrs. Max Schenk, president of the Women's Zionist Organization of America, the largest Jewish women's organization in the U.S., appealed to the top woman official in the Soviet Union to intervene. Her cable was addressed to Mrs. Yekaterina A. Furtsova, Minister of Culture. Pointing out that her Ministry "is the agency through which the civilizing forces of society should be promoted," Mrs. Schenk's message said, "We, over 300,000 women of Hadassah, wives and mothers, beseech you to intervene in behalf of Ruth Alexandrovich and other Jewish women who are imprisoned because they wish to go to Israel, their spiritual and cultural homeland where they can freely and fully live as Jews. We appeal to you, as a woman, to speak up in behalf of these young women separated from their families--one of them jailed on the eve of her wedding.... We ask that you act in accordance with your own Constitution and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man, which your country supports, in appealing for their freedom. We turn to you for help, now, on purely humanitarian grounds."

Hebrew Day Schools To Initiate Instructions In Ecology

GREENFIELD PARK, N.Y., May 10 (JTA) -- The Hebrew day schools joined the ranks of the conservation-minded yesterday by deciding to initiate instruction in ecology. The move was approved by 300 day school principals at the end of a four-day convention here of the National Conference of Yeshiva Principals and the National Association of Hebrew Day School Administrators, affiliates of Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools. The ecological curriculum will be part of the schools' over-all program of religious instruction, explained Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg of New York, spokesman for Torah Umesorah. "Ecology is a religious imperative," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "We are saying it's a sin to pollute the air and water."

The convention also resolved to seek greater Welfare Fund support for needy student scholarships while protecting the "ideological essence" of existing Hebrew day schools; to "upgrade the professionalism of day school instructors," and to increase individual instruction. Rabbi Sholom Rephun, principal of the Manhattan (N.Y.) Day School, was elected president of the National Conference of Yeshiva Principals, succeeding Rabbi Simcha Teitelbaum, president of Yeshiva High School of Queens (N.Y.), who was named honorary president.

Rockefeller Urged Not To Support Legislation For Private Schools

NEW YORK, May 10 (JTA) -- Two hundred prominent New Yorkers have sent an open letter to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller in what was described as "an urgent 11th hour appeal" not to support legislation that would give tax dollars to "private religious institutions" at a time of severe budget cuts in public services. The letter, already delivered to the Governor, was made public today by the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL). According to its executive co-chairman, William Haddad, a copy of the letter was on the desk of every State legislator this morning. The letter was made public as the State Legislature, reportedly near adjournment, prepared to act on a program of upwards of \$60 million in aid to non-public schools. The signers included Congressmen and other elected officials, parent leaders and officers of civil liberties groups. The letter declared: "Recognizing that if any legislation to support non-public education is passed it could not be without your support and approval, we want you to know that all of us listed below are opposed to any state aid going to private and parochial schools this year.... It would be unconscionable to siphon off sorely-needed funds for private and parochial education." The signers urged Rockefeller to exercise the "full influence and authority" of his office to prevent the passage or enactment of any legislation "giving tax dollars to private religious institutions."

Police Investigating Murder Of Israeli Soldier

TEL AVIV, MAY 10 (JTA) -- Police investigating the killing of an Israeli soldier in Galilee Friday released several Bedouins suspected of murder and are now operating on the theory that the soldier was the victim of a terrorist ambush. He was Lance Corp. Hilel David, 22, of Tel Aviv, who was shot to death following an altercation in which a Bedouin girl was slightly injured. Police thought that Bedouin tribesmen in the area murdered him for revenge. Now they suspect terrorist infiltrators from Lebanon.

Harry Sacher, Veteran Zionist Leader, Philanthropist And Author, Dies At 90

LONDON, May 10 (JTA) -- Harry Sacher, a veteran Zionist leader and philanthropist who carved a distinguished career as an author and journalist, died here today at the age of 90. Sacher was born in London, educated at New College, Oxford and served on the staff of the Manchester Guardian as an editorial and feature writer from 1905-1919. It was as a British journalist that he made important contributions to the Zionist movement and the efforts to secure the Balfour Declaration by which the British Government committed itself to the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. During his later career he devoted his time to writing books and essays and was a director of Marks and Spencer, one of the leading department stores.

Sacher was elected to the Jewish agency executive in Jerusalem in 1927. He retired from that post in 1931 but continued to be active in Zionist affairs as a collaborator and mentor of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann. Sacher made important contributions to efforts to rescue German Jews after 1933. He was a director of the Jewish Trust Corp. and was an honorary fellow of New College. His philanthropies benefited both Israel and British Jewry. He served at various times as editor of the Zionist Review, Palestine, Future and a publication titled "Zionist and the Jews." He was the author of two volumes--"Israel--the Establishment of the State" and "Zionist Portraits and Other Essays." Sacher is survived by his wife, Miriam, a leader of the Federation of Women Zionists; and two sons, Michael M. Sacher, chairman of the Joint Palestine Appeal and of the London Committee of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency and a member of its board of directors; and Gabriel, chairman of the British O.R.T.