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Mrs. Aleksandrovich in U.S. Says Daughter in Poor Health But in High Morale

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, whose daughter Ruth is a prisoner in Riga expecting to go on trial May 24, appeared at her first American press conference here today. The 47-year-old former language teacher said she came here to mobilize opinion on behalf of her daughter and other Soviet Jews in jail or on trial "not for deeds but for their ideas." Mrs. Aleksandrovich arrived here this morning from London. She said she intended to remain in the U.S. as long as the Riga trial was in session and will speak in Washington and other American cities. Her trip was arranged by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Her press conference was held at the Waldorf Astoria hotel where the American Jewish Committee, holding its annual meeting, made its facilities available. Mrs. Aleksandrovich said she spoke to Riga by telephone as soon as she arrived this morning. She said she was informed that her daughter, who suffers from asthma, was in poor health but high morale.

Asked if speaking out against the Soviet trials might not place her daughter in further jeopardy, Mrs. Aleksandrovich said the only way to arouse world opinion for Soviet Jews was to tell the story and the risk must be taken. She said that Soviet Jewish youth, more and more, was willing to demonstrate, petition and write letters for their right to emigrate. She said they were becoming well informed on Soviet law and were basing their cases on the Soviet law and constitutional guarantees. According to Mrs. Aleksandrovich, Jewish youth in Russia are determined to seek "repatriation" to Israel even if they have no families there. Mrs. Aleksandrovich went to Israel with her 18-year-old son Avigdor last month. She has a sister in that country. Her husband, an economist, remained in Riga for their daughter's trial. Later today Mrs. Aleksandrovich appeared at a rally for Soviet Jews at the Park East Synagogue, organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The rally was attended by about 800 persons.

Rogers: Israel Did Not Ask U.S. For Guarantees In Event UAR Violates Interim Accord

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--Secretary of State Rogers denied today that Israel has asked the United States for guarantees in the event of an Egyptian violation of an interim agreement under which Israel would pull its forces back from the Suez Canal. Rogers appeared on the NBC television program "Meet The Press." He was questioned twice about guarantees in connection with his recent visit to Israel and Arab countries and both times replied with a categorical "No." He said the "necessity for peace is so great" that the U.S. is prepared to play a "responsible role" to achieve it but he would not elaborate. Rogers told the newsmen that he saw "no signs of a slowdown" in the discussions underway for a Mideast settlement because of the present political upheaval in Egypt. He said that to date there was "no indication that the government of Egypt is not in control."

Rogers was questioned about his meeting tomorrow with United Nations Secretary General U Thant and UN mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. He was asked if the talks would deal in part with the transfer of the American role in the current negotiations for an interim settlement to Dr. Jarring. Rogers replied that he "would not put it that way." He said the U.S. was focussing the efforts for peace on the Jarring mission, based on the Security Council Resolution 242. He emphasized that the U.S. "will not interfere" with Dr. Jarring's efforts to reach a settlement. He said "We have made it clear from the beginning that we pin our hopes on Jarring and Resolution 242." Rogers would not reply directly when he was asked if the possibility of an interim settlement to reopen the Suez Canal hinged on Israel's right to use the waterway. He said that if an interim solution was worked out, the canal should be open to all. He said that was one of the points under consideration.

Dr. Zand's Exit Visa Revoked Hours After Issuance; Confident It Will Be Reinstated

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--An exit visa granted to Prof. Mikhail Zand, a Soviet Jewish scholar and activist, was revoked only hours after it was issued last Friday, it was learned today. But Dr. Zand told the newspaper Maariv by telephone from Moscow today that he was confident that the visa would be reinstated and that he and his family would arrive in Israel "soon." The Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York learned from reliable sources last Monday that Zand and 24 other Jewish activists were about to receive exit permits on the recommendation of a special police commission set up by Soviet authorities last March to speed up applications for emigration by Jews. Dr. Zand, an orientalist, was recently fired from his job. He told Maariv today that he received his visa last Friday and rushed to the Dutch Consulate which handles Israeli affairs in Moscow for his Israeli papers. He also visited the Austrian legation for a transit visa and the local airline office for reservations. He said that on his way home he was told that the authorities were looking for him. He returned to the visa office, where he said he was informed that his exit permit was revoked because of "complaints of undesirable activities on his part" that had to be investigated. Dr. Zand told the newspaper that the complaints were that he had contacts with foreigners and that many people visited his flat. He said that he had sold all of his possessions in anticipation of leaving for Israel and that his family was "sleeping on the floor." However, he said, "We are sure that on Tuesday we shall get the permit again and we shall arrive soon."

\$1 Million Endowment Grant To Establish Jacob Blaustein Institute For Human Rights

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--The Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, dedicated to the furtherance of Jewish security and universal human rights, for all men everywhere, is to be established as a memorial to the late Baltimore industrialist, statesman and philanthropist. The Institute will function as an arm of the American Jewish Committee, and will be located at the New York headquarters of the Committee in the Institute of Human Relations, which also houses the Jacob

and Hilda Blaustein Library and Center for Human Relations Research. The establishment of the Institute was announced by Dr. Morjon K. Blaustein of Baltimore, Jacob Blaustein's son, at the 65th annual dinner of the AJCommittee. Blaustein was president of the American Jewish Committee from 1949 to 1954, and honorary president from 1954 until the time of his death last November at the age of 78.

Dr. Blaustein, speaking for himself and on behalf of his mother, Mrs. Hilda K. Blaustein, and other members of the family, explained that the Institute would be established by a \$1,000,000 endowment grant from the family. The Institute will engage in a wide variety of short-range and long-range projects involving action and research programs, particularly on the international and human rights scene. The activities of the new Institute will reflect the four major human-rights and human-relations concerns that occupied Blaustein during his lifetime, Dr. Blaustein explained. The Institute will: seek to further public understanding of human rights concepts and to promote their translation into internationally binding agreements; seek to build understanding and support for the State of Israel, within the framework of American interests, and at the same time will strive to deepen the Israeli people's understanding of Jewry in the United States and other countries; foster interreligious understanding here and abroad and will conduct activities and projects to advance Jewish-Christian relations; assist Jewish communities of Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Latin America in reconstructing their communal and cultural life; and will aid threatened Jewish communities to combat rising discrimination and persecution. The AJCommittee, concluding its annual meeting today reelected to a third term Philip E. Hoffman as president, and reelected Max M. Fisher of Detroit chairman of its executive council.

Report Egyptian Government Shakeup Not Directly Related To Conflict With Israel

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--Israel refrained today from any official comment on the political crisis in Egypt. Most knowledgeable observers view it as the surfacing of the long anticipated "war of succession" for the mantle of the late President Gamal Abdel Nasser. For the time being, Nasser's chosen successor, President Anwar Sadat, seems to have the upper hand but Israeli observers believe the power struggle is far from settled. The crisis broke into the open Thursday when Sadat ordered the resignation of Sharaway Gomaa, a Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior. Five other Cabinet ministers, including War Minister Mohammed Fawzi submitted their resignations. In a broadcast to the Egyptian people Friday night, Sadat announced that he had foiled a coup. He said the former War Minister and other alleged plotters were under house arrest. He claimed that the block resignations from his Cabinet were an attempt to create the impression that his regime was collapsing. Three members of the eight-man ruling Higher Executive Committee of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party, also resigned. Sadat promptly swore in new Cabinet ministers and announced that he was ordering free elections for a complete reorganization of the Arab Socialist Union.

The Cairo upheaval followed by little more than a week Sadat's ouster of Aly Sabry, one of Egypt's two vice presidents. Most foreign observers believe the immediate cause of the rift was Egypt's projected federation with Libya and Syria which was strongly opposed by Sabry. Israeli circles do not think the events in Egypt were directly related to the Israel-Egypt conflict or to the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Rogers to Cairo seeking an interim arrangement for reopening the Suez Canal. But some Israeli sources believe the Rogers peace mission may have been crippled by the Cabinet shake-up in Cairo. They maintain that a government in the midst of a crisis cannot undertake major policy decisions. Israelis note that the anti-Sadat forces include many pro-Moscow politicians, Sabry among them.

Dayan Denies Making Pull-Back Proposals To Sisco

TEL AVIV, May 16 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has denied that he made any specific proposals to U.S. Assistant Secretary Joseph J. Sisco for an Israeli pull-back from the Suez Canal. Premier Golda Meir's office also denied reports that any such Israeli proposal was conveyed to the U.S. Press reports Friday said that Dayan had suggested to Sisco a week earlier that Israel withdraw about 18.6 miles from the east bank of the canal as part of an interim agreement to reopen the waterway. He reportedly made the suggestion in a private talk with Sisco while Secretary of State Rogers was on an air tour over Sharm el-Sheikh.

Trudeau To Discuss Problems Of Soviet Jews With Kosygin

MONTREAL, May 16 (JTA)--When Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau goes to the Soviet Union for a 10-day visit beginning tomorrow, he will discuss with Soviet Premier Alexsei Kosygin the problems of Soviet Jews. Barnett Danson, Parliamentary Secretary to Trudeau, told a Canadian Jewish Congress delegation. Danson said the Prime Minister would discuss the matter of emigration of Russian Jews to Israel, their cultural and religious rights as Soviet citizens, and convey the interest of the Canadian government in the right of Soviet Jews to reunite with their families in accordance with the promise Kosygin made in Paris in 1968. Meanwhile, 3,000 residents of Montreal signed a petition deploring the resumption of the trials in the Soviet Union. The petition was airmailed to Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny. A cable, sent separately to Soviet leaders by Monroe Abbey and Saul Hayes, president and executive vice-president respectively of the CJC, appealed to the Soviet government "in the name of humanity and compassion" to cease persecuting "people whose only desire is to join their people in Israel."

Israel Had No Role In Hijack Plot; Jews On Trial May Be 'Rehabilitated' Some Day

WASHINGTON, May 16 (JTA)--An Israeli official predicted that the Jews presently on trial in Leningrad and the others serving prison terms in the alleged aerial hijack plot may some day be "rehabilitated" by a new Soviet regime. Nir Baruch, Minister Counsellor of the Israel Embassy here said the Leningrad trial followed the same pattern as previous political trials in the Soviet Union and other Communist states. Addressing several hundred scientists and employees of the National Institute of Health, Baruch declared that the "attempts to implicate Israel in accusations raised at the Leningrad trials are a vicious lie." He said "Israel played no part whatsoever in this whole episode." He referred to the fact that the nine Jews on trial in Leningrad have been accused, among other "crimes",

of having received aid and instructions from Israel regarding the attempted hijacking of a Soviet airliner at Leningrad last June 15. He said that Israel has time and again publicly disassociated itself from acts of violence of any kind and that Israeli opposition to hijacking and similar actions was "a precept of policy expressed many times by the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister." He said the hijack plot was engineered by the KGB, the Soviet secret police, as an excuse for arresting Jewish activists who had been demanding their emigration rights. He pointed out that no plane was ever hijacked and that the accused in Leningrad were not in the proximity of any plane when they were arrested.

Replying to questions from his audience, Baruch said "The history of the Soviet Union is replete with a catalogue of trials that were conducted with a political motive in mind. The common feature of all these trials was that most of the accused allegedly admitted their guilt. An equally common characteristic is that years later the governments themselves rehabilitated the condemned and openly admitted that they had fallen victims to the injustices and political machinations of their persecutors. The current trial is of a similar nature." Tass the Soviet news agency, reported from Moscow yesterday that four Jews convicted in last December's Leningrad hijack trial and now serving prison terms were brought to court to testify against the current Leningrad defendants. They were identified by Tass as Maj. Mark Dymshitz and Edvard Kuznetsov, the alleged ring-leaders, Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, who is in her ninth month of pregnancy, and Yosef Mendeleovich.

According to Tass they all gave evidence against the accused. Maj. Dymshitz allegedly incriminated Grigory Hillel Butman and Mikhail Korenblit. The ban on foreign newsmen at the trial, including correspondents from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and other Communist states, made it impossible to corroborate the Tass account. Jewish sources stated however that it was misleading and incomplete. The sources said that Tass failed to report Butman's statement that he had tried to dissuade Dymshitz from attempting to leave the Soviet Union illegally. The same sources said that two other defendants, Lev Yagman and Viktor Bogualasky never admitted guilt, contrary to the Tass report. They admitted however their connection with "Exodus," the underground bulletin of Jews wishing to leave the Soviet Union. They pointed out that "Exodus" was not an anti-Soviet publication and was dedicated to helping Jews obtain exit visas through legal channels. Jewish sources cast doubt on the authenticity of a letter published in Leningradskaya Pravda from the parents of one of the defendants, Viktor Shilbans, denouncing his activities and Zionism in general.

Israel Bond Employees Out On Strike; Affects 60 Offices Throughout Country

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--Some 450 employees of the Israel Bond Organization have gone out on strike in a dispute over a new contract. The strike by members of Local 1707, Community and Social Agency Employees, which affects 60 Bond Organization offices throughout the country, began Friday midnight when the old contract expired. Efforts by both sides to avert a walkout failed after nine hours of bargaining on Friday at the office of the State Mediation Board. The State agency's intervention was requested by the Bond Organization with the approval of the union. Spokesmen for neither side were available today for comment.

Report Israel Prepared To Dismantle Bar-Lev Line, Rebuild It Further From Canal

JERUSALEM, May 16 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today that Israel was prepared to dismantle its Bar-Lev line fortifications on the east bank of the Suez Canal and build a new line further in the Sinai interior as its contribution to an interim settlement to reopen the canal. The sources said that this hinged on the willingness of the United States to finance the construction of a new line which would run into hundreds of millions of dollars. According to the sources, Washington has indicated a willingness to consider the proposal. The present Bar-Lev line, a system of in depth fortifications beginning near the canal's east bank, would be blown up. There were no indications where Israel proposed to build the new line. If the U.S. underwrites the scheme, it would, in effect, give Israel the right to retain part of the Sinai peninsula under an interim agreement pending a final peace settlement with secure and agreed borders, the sources said. In helping Israel implement an interim solution, the U.S. would be doing nothing more "reprehensible" from the Arab point of view than she did when she supplied Israel with Phantom jets before there was any such agreement, the source stated.

Jewish Scholars Say Jewish Education Must Develop Comprehensive Approach

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--A group of leading Jewish scholars said today that Jewish education must move from its strongly classroom-centered methodology to a comprehensive approach in which the Hebrew school, the home, the local Jewish community, the summer camp, travel, academic Jewish studies, and offbeat Jewish student movements will all play recognized roles. The scholars, who had participated in a year-round Colloquium for Jewish Education at Brandeis University, sponsored by the Lown Graduate Center for Contemporary Jewish Studies and the American Jewish Committee, reported their conclusions at the final session of the Committee's 65th annual meeting. Among these conclusions, made public by Maynard I. Wishner of Chicago, chairman of the AJCommittee's Jewish Communal Affairs Commission, were the following: there is an urgent need for defined goals in Jewish education; innovative ideas are needed to bolster the limited hours spent at formal Hebrew school programs; many Jewish college students are seeking to revitalize Jewish education; their activities resulting in "a remarkable proliferation of Jewish studies on campus." Dr. Leonard Fein of Brandeis University stated: "It is the durability of Judaic instinct which is our chief resource, and it is the impending atrophy of that instinct which makes the case for educational reform so urgent." Rabbi Burt Jacobson, director of education at Temple Emunah in Lexington, Mass., said, "We should begin to design havurot, communities of shared living for Jewish youngsters and their parents to grow in, where there is a sense of sharing the Jewish past and present through study, worship and social service." Most Colloquium members felt that the day school is the only instrument through which the Jewish community can achieve a fully-integrated program of Jewish and secular studies and create a more normal living experience for the students.

SPECIAL JTA INTERVIEW

SOVIET JEWS SING THEIR WAY TO FREEDOM

By MURRAY ZUCKOFF, JTA News Editor

NEW YORK, May 16 (JTA)--Somewhere in Russia a group of Jews gathered in a house. There was some uneasiness among them at first because there was a stranger with a tape recorder in their midst. Soon, however, one of the Jews began to hum a lilting, haunting melody and others began to join in. The stranger turned on his tape recorder and the Jews in the room began to sing in unison. The melody was basically Russian with hints of Israeli strains. The words, a mixture of Russian, Yiddish and Hebrew, revealed their hopes and joys, their deep and abiding love of Israel. The refrain stated: "Yerushalayim, Yerushalayim, wonderful city, holy city. Yerushalayim, Yerushalayim, how I love my native city... Yerushalayim has captured our hearts." This meeting was clandestine and the song was one of the many underground protest songs Jews sing throughout the Soviet Union. The words of this song, as those of others, are not in and of themselves anti-Soviet. But the intent could be interpreted by Soviet authorities as anti-Soviet and pro-Israel and pro-Zionist. Yet these Jews wanted the songs they sing amongst themselves to reach the ears and hearts of their brethren outside the USSR. This was the beginning of a mission for the stranger with the tape recorder that culminated in his smuggling the songs out of the Soviet Union and bringing them back to the United States where they have been recorded and will be broadcast for the first time on May 22 and May 29 on radio station WQXR from 7:06 to 8 p.m. on both nights. Subsequently, they will be released by Star Records entitled appropriately, "Silent No More."

The radio broadcast and the record will also contain conversations between the stranger and Soviet Jews which reflect their undaunted determination to live as Jews and to go to Israel. The cost of the recording has been underwritten by the American Jewish Congress and the proceeds from the sales of the record will be used to set up scholarships for young Russian Jews studying at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The composers of the words and of some of the melodies are not yet known, or where known, cannot yet be revealed. The broadcast is basically the result of the untiring efforts of four men to bring the message of Soviet Jews to the world. The stranger is an American scientist, himself Jewish who speaks Russian and Hebrew fluently, whose studies take him around the world. His name, for the sake of security, will be Ben-Zion. The second man, who was instrumental in getting WQXR to broadcast the songs and orchestrated, arranged and conducted the session, is Issachar Miron, currently the director of information at the American Friends of the Hebrew University in New York. Miron is the former Music Deputy of Israel and Officer-in-Chief of the Israel Defense Army during the War of Liberation. A world renowned composer, he has written, among numerous works, nine secular worship oratorios and is perhaps most famous for his popular song, "Tzena, Tzena." The third man is Theodore Bikel, actor, folk singer, political activist and co-chairman of the National Governing Council of the AJCongress. He recorded the songs and translation of the conversations of the Russian Jews heard on the tape. The fourth man, too, cannot be identified because he is still in the Soviet Union and well known.

In The West The Songs Would Be Non-Violent Protest; In Russia, They Are Dangerous

He, Ben-Zion told this reporter, was responsible for arranging some of the meetings and suggested that the songs be recorded. In addition, of course, are the Soviet Jews who, by the very act of composing and singing these songs not only defy Soviet authorities but face harassment and possible arrest. By Western standards, Miron said, "these are songs of protest, a legitimate expression of non-violent protest. But in the context of Russian society, the songs are very dangerous, very rebellious and extremely revolutionary." One of the conversations Ben-Zion recorded was with a man who told him: "All the songs we write have only one theme: the soul wants to be free. It begs for freedom for all the Jews. When our brothers, Jews in other lands, will listen to these songs, they will understand, I hope, that even under terrible conditions, all the Jews want only one thing - to be united with our own, with our brothers and sisters. That is all." What do the songs say? One, entitled "Oh My Heart," is about a man talking to his heart in Aesopian language. "Why should my heart and blood live in such hunger? There's just one riddle I can't solve; And that's, why even a dog should lead a dog's life? And what would I do if I'm a grey cat, and a dog's life has been dealt out to me? So often in dreams, a wondrous land appears to me; A land with skies of blue with a red, red sea." Another song, "Just Three Hours Flight From Here," states: "There's no capitalism here, there's a right to work. But, nevertheless, Jews don't get into jobs. You have a right to wait in line for vodka or for matzoh, but you've no right to wait on line for an exit visa."

There is also the magnificent "Pharaohu" (To Pharaoh - Let My People Go), with its words: "Oh Pharaoh, Oh Pharaoh! Let my people go! Send forth the Jewish people to its homeland. Untiring, untiring, I'll repeat: Let my people go!" How did these Russian Jews, who told Ben-Zion that they have no Russian-Hebrew dictionaries, learn Hebrew to blend in with the Russian words? "There used to be a time when we prayed three times a day," a man told Ben-Zion. "Now, three times a day, we listen to Radio Israel. The songs are not just sung by older Jews. Most are sung by young Jews. The same man said: 'The young people have a national longing, a feeling for their people. The young have not forgotten their Jewishness. Our youth is better than us.' Ben-Zion noted that the Jews do not refer to these songs as underground songs. 'They just say these are our songs, they belong to us.' They aren't sung out in the open for fear of reprisals, he added. 'Jews sing them when they gather at parties, at weddings, when they're with their own.' The songs, Ben-Zion said, come from all parts of the USSR. 'The songs are exchanged when Jews from different cities meet one another. Few are written down. Individuals carry them back to their native towns.' Miron noted that until recently, the existence of these songs were unknown in the Western world. 'This would indicate that they were hidden or suppressed,' he said. 'They contain dramatic messages of unprecedented strength. No longer are the Jews afraid. No longer are they silent.' As one man told Ben-Zion: 'Next year in Jerusalem, next month, or next week or the next minute. We Jews are always ready.'