

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Elrom Sends Message To Wife: 'I Am Okay'; Wife Asks Kidnapers For Mercy

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--Proof that kidnaped Israeli Consul General Ephraim Elrom was still alive in Turkey today was disclosed in Istanbul, according to a report from that capital. In a handwritten letter delivered to his wife by an unidentified messenger, Elrom wrote in English: "Dear Elsa: I am with the Turkish People's Liberation Army. I am OK. Do not worry. Love, Ephraim." The handwriting was positively identified by Istanbul experts as that of Elrom, who was abducted at his apartment Monday by eight armed men although it had "obviously" been dictated by Elrom's captors. The experts said the "moderate" tone of the note raised hopes that the diplomat would eventually be freed. Mrs. Elrom, on receiving the message, drafted a return letter asking the kidnapers for mercy. She wrote: "I am a bereaved mother. I have lost my only son under very tragic circumstances (in a plane crash near Tel Aviv two years ago). All I have left is my husband. I assume you also have parents and wives and will understand my feelings. I beg of you, let my husband go." There is a complete blackout in Istanbul on official efforts to trace and release Elrom. A spokesman for the Turkish police said the matter should be left to them, as they had proved in the past that they could cope with such situations. The spokesman said he was aware that the kidnapers had threatened to kill Elrom unless "all revolutionary guerrillas under detention presently are set free," but he declared that Turkey would never submit to terrorist blackmail.

## Soviet Officials Giving Zand Run-Around; Zand Reported In Poor Health

LONDON, May 19 (JTA)--Soviet officials are resorting to stalling tactics on the issuance of a new visa to Prof. Mikhail I. Zand to replace the one they revoked last Friday hours after it had been issued, it was learned here today. Dr. Zand, a specialist on Oriental languages and an activist for Jewish emigration rights, was told to apply for a new visa on Tuesday. When he came to the Moscow visa office yesterday he was told to come back Friday. Meanwhile, Jewish sources reported that Dr. Zand is in poor health. According to these sources, he was approached several days ago by a Soviet official who suggested that he go into a hospital. When Dr. Zand declined the offer, the official reportedly told him, "You are a stateless person." The official was referring to the fact that all those who apply for exit visas must give up their Soviet citizenship. Dr. Zand learned that his visa was cancelled last Friday after he had rushed to make travel arrangements for himself and his family to Israel via Vienna. He was told by officials that complaints of "undesirable activities" were made against him, apparently the result of his conversations with Western visitors, and that he could not leave until they were investigated. Last week Dr. Zand seemed confident that he would get a new visa on Tuesday. He sold all of his belongings in anticipation of going to Israel.

## Black Separatists May Have More In Common With Jewish Outlook Than Integrationists

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--A prominent Washington rabbi told B'nai B'rith lay and professional leaders who are engaged in youth work throughout North America that the Jewish community "may have more in common with black separatists than with black integrationists." Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz of Adas Israel Congregation said "the integrated world that the integrationists seek does not exist... There is today a reaching toward ethnic brotherhood, a strengthening of group identity. The black revolution has made ethnic awareness legitimate and fashionable--and, this is one of the things the Negroes have done for the Jews." The Negroes, Rabbi Rabinowitz said, now searching for the roots from which they stem, have stimulated a similar quest among the Jews. "Many of us had forgotten from whence we came--but now there's a tremendous awakening among the Jewish people, a hunger to learn who we are. How else can you account for the popularity of Jewish novels, of 'Fiddler on the Roof' and the stories of Sholem Aleichem, and of Yiddish Chassidic music among young people?" The doctrine of the American "melting pot," said Rabbi Rabinowitz, "which was supposed to transform everybody to an Anglo-Saxon, just didn't work. It didn't work for the blacks, and it didn't work for the Jews, as we learned from sad experience. The very people who could muster sympathy for the Jew when he was a helpless victim had no patience for him when the Jew comes forth as a victor or as a citizen demanding, not pleading, for equality and justice."

There have been three repudiations of the Jewish people in recent years, Rabbi Rabinowitz observed. "We have seen so-called liberal organizations, including some heavily supported by Jews, bleed for every cause except the cause of the Jewish people. We have endured the slander of some of our black would-be allies. Many of the books turned out by Negro scholars of recent vintage border on outright anti-Semitism. And we have noted the silence of the church in the face of Arab attacks on Israel. Many churchmen appear to be distressed by the emerging power of a Jewish state, and especially, of Israel's unification of the Holy City of Jerusalem." Rising ethnic consciousness, he added, does not preclude Jewish dialogue with the black community and with other non-Jewish groups. "We must break through the encirclement of suspicion and hatred," Rabbi Rabinowitz, addressing a national planning conference devoted to "The Jewish Teenager of the 1970's," urged efforts to intensify programs of "total living Jewish experience" at summer camps, winter retreats and expansion of work and study tours of Israel. "Boredom, alienation and dropping out" he said, can only be offset by "something that provides youth with self-identity and purpose. In a sense, youth needs something to die for. For, unless there is something to die for, there is nothing to live for. We must turn out large numbers of Jewish youth patriots who will be involved in the struggles of the Jewish people."

## Jewish Sources Deny Reports That Defendants Confessed To Anti-Soviet Crimes

LONDON, May 19 (JTA)--Jewish sources in Leningrad repeated today their denials of reports by Tass, the Soviet news agency, that the Jewish prisoners on trial had confessed to anti-Soviet crimes

and asked for mercy. The sources said that a statement attributed to defendant Lassa Kaminsky--"I have committed crimes and deserve punishment"--had never been uttered by him, but by a defense attorney pleading for mitigation of charges. The official Soviet report on the proceedings omitted all the final statements of the accused except for the alleged Kaminsky remark. The Soviet press continues to pay very little attention to the trial, with the exception of Leningradskaya Pravda (Leningrad Truth), which contends that "the accused invited Israel to help them hijack a Soviet aircraft, but the Israelis refused because they were at the time engaged in a campaign against hijackings." Jewish sources retorted: "It seems Israel can never do right. When it says nothing it is also at fault, and its silence is interpreted as a wicked hypocrisy--fighting hijacking on one hand and supporting it on the other."

### Jewish Journalist Barred By Soviet Embassy From Accompanying Trudeau To USSR

TORONTO, May 19 (JTA)--In an unexpected move the Soviet Embassy here refused to issue a visa to a Canadian Jewish journalist who had been accredited to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau's press delegation for his first Russian good will tour, it was reported here. Milton Winston, a law graduate, teacher and free-lance journalist who is active in Jewish community affairs, was to have joined the press corps representing the "Jewish Standard," a Toronto-based magazine. Winston, the sole representative of the Jewish press was the only journalist who was denied a visa by the Russian government. Despite a three-day flurry of negotiations the refusal was maintained. No official explanations were given. Winston stated that the refusal of granting him a visa can only be explained in terms of the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union and the "inhumane" trial of nine Jews in Leningrad. "I hope no one is fooled by the Russian explanations of their treatment of Jews," he said. "If they refuse to allow one Jewish press reporter into Russia accompanying the Prime Minister of Canada, it certainly points out their attitude and policy towards Jews." Trudeau is scheduled to visit Leningrad, the scene of the trials, May 27th. His 10-day tour ends May 28.

### Mrs. Meir Tells Knesset That Government Continues To Reject Rogers' Plan

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir said in the Knesset today that her government continues to reject the Rogers Plan calling for Israel's return to its pre-June, 1967 boundaries and has made that clear to all U.S. representatives with which it has had contact recently and to United Nations mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. Mrs. Meir spoke in reply to a question by Mordecai Ben Porat, an MK representing the Labor Alignment. There was no indication when Mrs. Meir would deliver her report to the Knesset on her recent talks in Jerusalem with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Assistant Secretary Joseph J. Sisco. She had been expected to make the report directly after Rogers' departure but it was postponed to a later, as yet unannounced date. Mrs. Meir told the Knesset that the Cabinet has never held a discussion on the delineation of Israel's future borders, nor have any recommendations in that respect been submitted to the Cabinet. From time to time, she said, teams of experts were asked to prepare material on various topics, but not to recommend any particular possibilities. Mrs. Meir replied to a question by Free Center MK Shmuel Tamir, who asked whether reports in a morning newspaper that there were two teams of map-planners headed by Foreign Minister Abba Eban's personal advisor, Walter Eytan, were correct. She added that it was also untrue that Absorption Minister Natan Peled had suggested to the Cabinet that it hold talks with the American administration on a map of security borders in the Sinai.

Mrs. Meir told the House that during her last trip to the United States there was no discussion about the idea of an Israeli lease of Sharm el-Sheikh. She again denied that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told Sisco that Israel was prepared to pull its troops 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) from the Suez Canal. The Premier refused to comment on recent press reports alleging that as of this month the U.S. will not fulfill Israel's request for equipment. Later in the session, Eban told the House that Israel viewed with favor the increased efforts by the U.S. to foster an interim agreement aimed at reopening the canal--which have become apparent since Rogers' visit to the Middle East. The minister added that he was convinced that Israel and America could surmount their differences and that damage to their relations was not inevitable. Eban stated that there was no American pressure on Israel to agree to the Rogers territorial plan or to return to the pre-Six-Day War borders. Replying to questions on the situation of Soviet Jews, Mrs. Meir said the Israel government was aware of numerous cases of physical injury to Jews who had applied for visas to emigrate to Israel. She said there were also many cases of abusive anonymous letters received by Jews seeking emigration. She said that when complaints were made to the authorities, the Jews were told "we do not deal with anonymous letters." Mrs. Meir said her government was doing all it could to bring these incidents to the attention of "those who can help."

### Panthers Demand Release Of Comrades; Say Fracas Caused By Matzpen

JERUSALEM, May 19 (JTA)--Ninety-nine persons were arrested but 33 were freed by noon today following six hours of demonstrations, firebombings and battles with police by self-styled Black Panthers in the streets of Jerusalem last night. Additional releases were expected later today. The demonstrations and fighting ended at midnight by which time 25 persons were injured, including ten policemen, none seriously. Three Molotov cocktails were thrown, one of them injuring a young man. About 20 shop windows were smashed along Ben Yehudah Street, one of Jerusalem's main thoroughfares. The street fighting began late yesterday afternoon when police tried to disperse Panthers who were spreading their demonstrations beyond the limits specified in their permit. The Panthers resisted and police used force. The demonstrations were the most serious to date by the slum youths, mostly of North African and Asian origin. The Panthers are protesting slum conditions, poverty and what they charge is discrimination against Oriental Jews in employment, housing and education. This afternoon, some 300 Panthers and sympathizers gathered outside police headquarters here to protest the detention of their brethren. A Panther leader, Rafi Abergil, warned that unless they were all released by 8:30 tomorrow morning, "thousands" of Panthers would stage a hunger strike outside Magistrate Court. Panthers blamed Matzpen, a splinter pro-terrorist group for the disturbances.

## Scientists Appeal To Brezhnev, Soviet Scientists To Let Jews Emigrate

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--Eighteen eminent scientists--Jewish and non-Jewish--in the Washington area have appealed to Leonid I. Brezhnev, secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and to eight Soviet scientists to aid Soviet Jewry to live as Jews or emigrate. They also asked for an end to the Leningrad trial and other trials of Jews and for freedom for those imprisoned. A copy of the petition was forwarded to Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the Soviet Ambassador here. Nobel laureate Julius Axelrod of the National Institute of Health here, was among the signers. Copies of the petition were mailed to Soviet scientists including Pyotr L. Kapitza and Andrei D. Shakharov of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow. More than 700 scientific personnel in the Washington area presented a similar appeal to the Soviet Embassy four months ago, but Embassy officials refused to accept it. In the current appeal, the scientists said they were "resolved to continue protesting until this denial of human rights is completely brought to an end."

## ADL Hails Federal Legislation On Religious Needs Of Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)--A new federal regulation requiring government agencies to accommodate to the religious needs of "special Sabbath observers" was today praised by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as "an important step in alleviating a disturbing problem for Jews and other Saturday Sabbath observers." The regulation, adopted by the Civil Service Commission, goes into effect May 24. It declares that federal agencies are to "make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of applicants and employees, including the needs of those who observe the Sabbath on other than Sunday..." Noting that the ADL had pressed for some time for an official ruling to assure fair treatment of Saturday Sabbath observers, Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the League, said he had every hope that "the regulation will be carried out in the spirit in which it has been adopted." In addition to Jews, Saturday Sabbath observers include Seventh-day Adventists.

## AJCommittee Chapter Urges Rockefeller To Sign Bill Protecting Orthodox Students

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)--The New York Chapter of the American Jewish Committee called today on Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to sign a bill that would protect Orthodox Jewish students in private colleges and professional schools from being penalized for being absent from school activities scheduled on the Jewish Sabbath. Chapter president Edward D. Moldover, in a letter to the Governor, urged that he sign the bill, introduced into the State legislature by State Senator Paul P.E. Bookson and Assemblyman Louis DeSalvo, stating that "no student should be compelled to modify his observance of the Sabbath or any other Holy Day in order to comply with a school's schedule of classes, laboratories or examinations. No student should be penalized by being marked absent on a Holy Day nor should his religious observance disqualify him in any manner as to admission to the college." The bill, if signed by the Governor, would protect Sabbath observers in private colleges and professional schools in the same way as such students are now protected in state and city colleges and universities.

## Head Of Hebrew Union College, Academicians Urge Soviet Union To Let Zand Go

LOS ANGELES, May 19 (JTA)--A request that the Soviet Union keep its promise, broken at the last minute, that Prof. Mikhail Zand and his family could leave for Israel has been made by Dr. Albert Gottschalk, president of Hebrew Union College and other members of the Southern California academic community. Dr. Gottschalk, in a telegram to the president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said that the refusal of the Soviets to grant an exit visa to Zand at the last moment after he had been promised a visa was a reflection on both the academic community of the USSR and its government. He asked the Academy's president to use his good offices to help "this learned gentle scholar and his family to be immediately allowed to leave for Israel."

## Sen. Taft Says Soviet Policy Is To Obliterate Jewish Community

WASHINGTON, May 19 (JTA)--Sen. Robert Taft Jr., Republican of Ohio, told the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater Washington yesterday that the Soviet Union's policy, despite its denials, is aimed at the obliteration of the Jewish community and culture in that country. "As long as these injustices persist, I pledge you that my voice will join those who speak out on this cause," Taft declared. Critical of an imposed peace in the Middle East, Taft said: "We must recognize that if Israel is to have security from aggression, she must have militarily defensible borders. To rely, therefore, on a political arrangement for the defense of Israel is simply unrealistic if defensible borders are not maintained."

## Three Nations Applying For ECM Membership Approve ECC Draft On Mideast

PARIS, May 19 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann said today that Britain and three other nations applying for membership in the European Common Market have approved in principle a draft policy statement on the Middle East drawn up by the six ECC member nations but not yet officially announced. Schumann said in reply to a question at a press conference that details of the statement haven't been published in order not to undercut the Jarring peace mission. He said the plan would be forwarded to United Nations Secretary General U Thant. It calls for Israel's withdrawal to its pre-June, 1967 boundaries, the establishment of demilitarized zones under international supervision on both sides of the border and the option of repatriation or compensation for Palestinian refugees. The policy statement was reported last week to have been accepted unanimously by the six ECC powers. Reports from Israeli sources later claimed that it was supported by France, Belgium and Luxembourg but rejected by West Germany, Holland and Italy.

## Israel Threatened With Suspension Of WHO Services If Refugee Rights Not Recognized

GENEVA, May 19 (JTA)--The World Health Assembly here has threatened Israel with suspension of WHO services if it continues its "violations of the basic human rights" of the Palestinian refugees. The warning, in a resolution, accused Israel of barring distribution of medicaments by the International Red Cross in the occupied territories.

## Head Of First Judaic Studies Program In City's University System Resigns

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)—Dr. Marvin Fox has resigned his appointment as chairman of the first full department of Judaic Studies in the City University system, at Brooklyn College, charging interference in academic affairs by a member of the Board of Higher Education, the policy-making body for the university system. However, informed sources at the Brooklyn school told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the resignation by Dr. Fox would not affect plans to open on schedule the new department in September. Dr. Fox, currently visiting professor of philosophy at the Hebrew University, on leave from Ohio State University, accused board member Herbert Berman, an attorney, of the interference. Dr. Fox, a leading Orthodox scholar, made his charge and withdrew from the appointment in a letter dated Feb. 16 to Brooklyn College President John Kneller and Dean Harry G. Albaum. The texts of Dr. Fox's letter, and of a letter from Berman to him, dated Feb. 4, on which Dr. Fox based his charge, were published in the April issue of the Reporter of the Legislative Conference of CUNY, a bargaining agency for faculty members in the city university system. According to that publication, the Legislative Conference referred both the Fox and Berman letters to Frederick H. Burkhardt, BHE chairman, calling for an investigation and "the action demanded by your findings."

In his letter, Dr. Fox charged that Berman "explicitly injected himself into such matters as selection of faculty and other areas of academic policy." Dr. Fox cited a passage in the Berman letter complaining that Dr. Fox apparently was approaching his new assignment "on the basis of an academicalian accustomed to the leisurely processes of the academic world. If you think this is in that category, you are sadly mistaken and we may have chosen the wrong man for the job." In his resignation letter, Dr. Fox replied that "I did think it was in that category" and that "it seems that I was clearly mistaken and, in that case, I am surely the wrong man for the job." He added that "to build a department in haste, without proper planning, development of a curricular master plan, survey of needs and development of priorities—to proceed only out of concern for publicity, or even in part out of such concern," he asserted, was "unworthy of any academic standards with which I am familiar." He declared that he "categorically" refused to serve as a professor and chairman "under policies set by Berman or any lay board member, or to have to deal with him on academic matters."

Berman had written that he had not been able to impress on Dr. Fox "sufficiently the need for immediate and strong decisions" on the new department which, he said, "has been widely publicized" as a "pilot program in the City University." He charged Dr. Fox with "vacillation and indecision in the face of the urgency of the program." The BHE held an unpublicized meeting on the issue on May 3 and prepared a statement on "functions and duties of board members," which declared that "any effort to elaborate a fixed code for the Board of Higher Education would be difficult and, since standards of propriety are relative to circumstances and time, probably unwise." But, the statement added, "some examples of conduct can be mentioned which we think we would agree, are clearly improper." One item in that category was when a board member "interferes in any degree with the freedom to teach and to learn, or when he intervenes in the affairs of a college at any level without the knowledge and consent of the President." A spokesman for the BHE declined to comment on whether any part of the BHE statement was meant to refer to the actions by Mr. Berman about which Dr. Fox had complained. He said that the statement preparation was the response of the BHE to requests for an investigation.

## Rabbi Siegman Says Criticism Of ADL Does Not Reflect Synagogue Council View

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)—Rabbi Henry Siegman, executive vice-president of the Synagogue Council of America, said today that the statement issued yesterday by Henry Schwarzschild, a member of the Council's Commission on Social Justice, criticizing the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith for giving the names of Jewish Defense League members to the FBI did not reflect the view of the Council or its Commission. In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Rabbi Siegman said: "Henry Schwarzschild acted in his personal capacity. The action he took and the position he expressed have not been discussed by the Commission of Social Justice of the Synagogue Council of America and, therefore, does not reflect the position of the Synagogue Council. In fact, as far as the Synagogue Council is concerned, this is the first we have heard of the (Schwarzschild's) statement."

## Federation Purchases Additional \$1 Million In Israel Bonds

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)—The purchase of an additional \$1 million of State of Israel Bonds has been authorized by the Board of Trustees of Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. This brings Federation's investment total in Israel Bonds to \$2 million. Newly elected Federation president, Lawrence B. Buttenwieser, in announcing the Board's decision on May 10, noted that the action resulted from a recommendation of its Executive Committee. The conclusion of the Executive Committee, Buttenwieser stated, was based upon "broad Jewish communal considerations." An initial purchase of \$1 million of Israel Bonds was made by Federation in 1967.

## Special Program On Jewish Youth Launched By WEVD

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)—Norman Furman, manager of radio station WEVD, announced today that a special program, "Jewish Youth Speaks Out," will be presented every Monday from 8:45 to 9:15 pm. WEVD in cooperation with the North American section of the World Union of Jewish Students will bring to its listeners issues of particular concern to youth, he said. Leaders of WUJS and other students will explain their views on vital issues. Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, noted educator, lecturer, writer, and who currently has a program on WEVD from 8:05 to 8:15 pm called "Jewish News Highlights," will be the moderator. In announcing this program, Furman said that it is in keeping with the station's policy of bringing the widest understanding of contemporary Jewish life to its audience.

## Injunction Bars JDL From Disruptive Acts Against Federation

NEW YORK, May 19 (JTA)—A temporary injunction barring the Jewish Defense League from staging disruptive acts at the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Greater New York offices was made permanent by State Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Spiegel. He also dismissed a \$1 million suit by the JDL which had charged the Federation with using "deceptive representation" in soliciting funds.