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Defendants Get 1-10 Years Hard Labor; Visa Applications Rejected For Markish Family

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--The nine Jewish defendants in the second Leningrad trial were convicted today on charges ranging from anti-Soviet activities to treason and were sentenced to hard labor in labor camps ranging from one year to 10, Jewish sources reported today. The heaviest penalty was meted out to Ilya Grigory (Hillel) Butman, 38-year-old engineer. Mikhail Korenblit was sentenced to 7 years, Laasal Kaminsky and Lev Naumovich Yagman to 5 each, Vladimir Osheroovich Mogilever to 4, Viktor David Boguslavsky, Solomon (Shlomo) Drelzner and Lev Korenblit to 3 each and Viktor Shtilbans to 1. Seven of the sentences matched the prosecution's demands; Kaminsky and Mikhail Korenblit were sentenced to one year less each than the prosecution asked. Jewish sources said the nine Jews planned an appeal to the Supreme Soviet.

In Moscow on Tuesday, the sources continued, the widow and son of Peretz Markish, the renowned pro-Communist Yiddish poet who was killed in the Stalin purges of 1952, had their applications for emigration rejected. Mrs. Esther Markish is in her 60s and her son David is in his 30s. The sources added that four more Leningrad Jews have been fired from their jobs and classes for applying for emigration. They were identified as Morhocova and Rozanskaya, two women who lost their jobs, and Kraslshitzkov and Venger, students ejected from their courses at the Leningrad University in their sixth and last year. The sources said the students realized they were jeopardizing their post-graduate diplomas but felt they had to make the attempt to emigrate while restrictions were relatively relaxed.

Jewish Leaders Urge Nixon, UN To Protest 'Latest Outrage'

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--Reacting to the tragic news of the conviction and sentencing of the nine Soviet Jewish defendants, Jewish leaders appealed today to the Nixon administration, the United Nations and free peoples and their governments to protest this latest outrage against Soviet Jews. Phillip E. Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, asserted that "So long as Russia's Jews are not permitted either to exercise their basic right to leave a country when they so wish or to live full lives as Jews within the Soviet Union together with other Soviet citizens, so long should the world realize that freedom has been reduced for us all." Hoffman said the trial was held and the sentences decreed "for matters of conscience," since "the world knows that they (the defendants) have been guilty of only one thing--expressing the overwhelming desire to live full Jewish lives." The actions of the Soviet court, he said, were "clear violations of basic human rights." Hoffman called on the Nixon administration, the UN "and all others concerned with the protection of the basic rights of individuals and minority groups to act immediately against this latest outrage."

Maurice A. Weinstein, chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council, declared: "We look for free peoples everywhere and their governments to react with protest to the Soviet Union's unyielding policy of intimidation and harassment of Jews who are being denied their fundamental human rights." Weinstein added that, "The cruel and callous punishment of those who sought nothing more than to live a free and meaningful Jewish life tragically confirms that Soviet leadership has yet to take to heart the world outcry provoked by the first Leningrad trial last December." Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, cabled President Nixon that "We of the AZF are profoundly shocked and outraged at the severity of the sentences imposed today upon the nine Jewish defendants at the Leningrad trials." Rabbi Miller said that "the secrecy surrounding the trial and the harshness of their punishment in relation to their alleged offenses is inimical to our 700,000 members, who subscribe to the traditional democratic concepts of due process of law."

The defendants, Rabbi Miller continued, "were not common criminals but highly respected professionals whose sole motivation was the desire to emigrate to Israel, a right proclaimed publicly by Soviet Premier (Alexsei N.) Kosygin several years ago and guaranteed by the UN Declaration on Human Rights." The AZF leader appealed to Nixon to "utilize your good offices to intercede with the Soviet government in behalf of these dedicated patriots whose only 'crime' was to seek the freedom and opportunity for self-expression and fulfillment that we Americans so richly enjoy." Herman L. Weisman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, declared the Leningrad convictions are "evidence that justice cannot prevail in the midst of Soviet imperialistic ambition and persecution. This impels us to urge our government to make its voice heard in behalf of Soviet Jews who seek to live as Jews and as free men." Weisman said that this latest "Soviet injustice emerges as an ugly echo of Russian anti-Semitism which existed under the Czars." The defendants' "only crime... was desiring to live as free and proud Jews in Israel," the Zionist leader said, yet "their punishment is a living death in Soviet prison camps."

Leningrad Sentences Received in Israel With Undisguised Fury

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--The Leningrad sentences were received in Israel with undisguised fury. Foreign Minister Abba Eban in a speech called the sentences "a shocking miscarriage of justice and distortion of the truth." Immigrant Absorption Minister Natan Peled told an assembly of Soviet immigrants at the Wailing Wall: "These sentences were obviously dictated. It was a cowardly trial. But this will not deceive anyone. The strength of the Jewish people in the Soviet Union will endure. This verdict was criminal. But the Soviet Union will not succeed in its designs." The chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Dr. William Wexler, told an Israeli radio interviewer that American Jewry would redouble its energy to help Soviet Jews. "Rest assured that we are all going to do everything we can," he said. "We shall also appeal to the United Nations."

SSSJ Members Attacked In Communist Party Office By Two Men Wielding Hammers

PHILADELPHIA, May 20 (JTA)--Seven members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Student Activists for Soviet Jewry were attacked by two men wielding hammers yesterday afternoon in the new local offices of the Communist Party U.S.A., they reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The leader of the delegation, Jay Blum, a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania who has visited the Soviet Union, was hospitalized with a minor concussion. Blum said that when the students arrived at the offices to protest the Leningrad trial, the only employee there, a woman, asked them to wait and left the room, returning shortly with the two men. No charges were filed against any of the participants in the incident.

Sadat Asserts Peace Accord With Israel Contingent On Total Withdrawal

LONDON, May 20 (JTA)--Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, having solidified his personal control over the machinery of government by purging those involved in an alleged "conspiracy" against him, declared in Cairo yesterday that "Our duty now is to work for the good of the people and open up a new era." Sadat spoke at the opening session of the country's new 34-member Cabinet, which established six committees for reorganizing the government's activities in production, agriculture, planning legal affairs, education, services, and education and culture. Each committee will be directed by a Cabinet minister, with Premier Mahmoud Fawzi heading the planning group. Sadat reiterated that a peace agreement with Israel was contingent on her withdrawing completely from occupied Arab land. He was to speak before the national assembly today. (In Jerusalem, unofficial Israeli reaction today to Sadat's speech was that he was again "returning to his theological phase," as one senior official put it. "We are increasingly getting the impression that Sadat is slipping back into the metaphysics of Arab policy.")

Soviet Jewry Undergoing Revival Of Religious Faith Says Rabbi Jakobovits

LONDON, May 20 (JTA)--"The miraculous revival of religious faith within Soviet Jewry is matched only by the wondrous rise of the State of Israel out of the ashes of the Holocaust." British Chief Rabbi Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits declared last night at a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the London Board of Jewish Religious Education. "After half a century of spiritual desolation," he continued, "religious weddings are again taking place in Russian synagogues. Teenagers are undergoing the right of circumcision to affirm their Jewish identity. Underground study of the language of the Bible has made large numbers of young Russian Jews amazingly fluent in Hebrew." Dr. Jakobovits urged the outside world to aid this Jewish-consciousness revolution. "In an age when the moral conscience of mankind is stirred by the struggle of the hungry and persecuted throughout the world, Soviet Jewry ought not to stand alone in their fight for religious self-determination and their right to rejoin the mainstream of their people."

First Bnei Akiva Yeshiva High Schools In U.S. To Open Next Fall

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--The first Bnei Akiva Yeshiva High Schools in the U.S., patterned after the in-residence Bnei Akiva High School system in Israel, will be established in Monsey, N.Y., in Rockland County it was announced today by Rabbi Nachum Muschel of the Hebrew Institute of Rockland County, and Zvi Assael, director of the Torah Education and Culture Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel, co-sponsor of the new schools. These national schools, one for boys and another for girls, to be known as the Yeshivat Hadar High Schools, will open in the Fall of 1971. Each school will accommodate 20 students who will be required to live in residence even if they are from nearby communities. The schools will be open to any youngster who has graduated from a Hebrew Day School. They will provide comprehensive curricula in both religious and general studies and will feature an Israeli trained Dean-In-Residence (Rosh Mesivta). They will also provide a full semester in the 12th grade in a Bnei Akiva School in Israel. "The establishment of these first Bnei Akiva Schools," Assael said, "is in response to a great need in America for additional Hebrew high school facilities for children who have graduated from Hebrew day primary schools."

Student Strike For Soviet Jewry Scheduled For May 27

NEW YORK, May 20 (JTA)--In protest against the harsh sentences meted out to the Leningrad Nine and the upcoming trials in Riga and Kishinev, a student strike for Soviet Jewry has been called for May 27, it was announced here today by Kenneth Arfa and Zvi Pearl, spokesmen for the ad hoc Student Strike for Soviet Jewry. On that day, the spokesmen said, thousands of students will not attend classes and instead will participate in a demonstration and march. At 12 noon a rally will take place at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza near the United Nations, where Soviet Jews now in America and other speakers will address the participants. From the Plaza, the group will march in a single file, carrying placards with the names of Soviet Jewish "Prisoners of Conscience," to the Soviet Mission to the UN. At the Mission, the names on the cards will be read off and the placards deposited in front of the Mission. The strike is under the sponsorship of the Jewish High School Student Alliance, the American Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the New York Union of Jewish Students, and the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry.

State-Wide Israel Expo-71 Draws 32,000 Persons During Five-Day Event

SHORT HILLS, N.J., May 20 (JTA)--More than 32,000 persons attended the first New Jersey state-wide Israel Expo-71 that began last Saturday evening and ended last night. The purpose of the cultural-industrial fair, according to Joseph R. Hamilton of Short Hills, fair coordinator and national associate treasurer of the Zionist Organization of America, was to "promote the sale of Israel made products, to encourage tourism and to present the many cultural aspects of Israel." Hamilton reported that more than \$143,000 worth of Israeli products was sold during the five days. During the course of the fair, Israel's Consul General, Rehavam Amir, told the attendees there was the hope that peace is closer than ever before. United States Senator Harrison A. Williams, New Jersey Democrat, said that it is in the interests of the U.S. to support Israel and to help make her economically strong.

Break Expected Shortly In Search For Kidnaped Israeli Consul

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--The special correspondent of the Israel Broadcasting Service in Istanbul reported this evening that a break in the search for kidnaped Israel Consul General Ephraim Elrom was expected shortly. Two of his abductors, picked up last night, were being grilled, and it was hoped they will supply clues to the prisoner's whereabouts. There was no word late this afternoon as to the fate of Elrom, who was kidnaped Monday by a Turkish terrorist group. The Turkish People's Liberation Army was holding Elrom as hostage for "all revolutionary guerrillas under detention," and warned they would execute the Israeli official by 11 a.m. (EST) if their brethren were not released. The deadline came and went with no further news about his fate. Meanwhile, the Turkish government said it was seeking to enact a law making kidnaping a capital offense. Yesterday, an unidentified messenger delivered a handwritten note to Elrom's wife in which the diplomat stated that "I am OK. Do not worry."

The Turkish military governorship has relented and has allowed the publication of Mrs. Elsa Elrom's appeal to the kidnapers for her husband's freedom. It was played on Turkish radio and television this afternoon. The military governor of the Istanbul area stated in an interview today that he was convinced that Elrom would be found alive, contending that no Turk could be cowardly enough to injure a diplomat who is a guest in Turkey and is under the protection of her hospitality. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources here that the Deputy Director General of the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Sasson, who flew to Ankara last night, was sent there in order to have a senior Israeli official on the spot in case instant decisions have to be taken in a crisis situation. Sasson carries no exchange offers whatsoever it was understood. It also learned that at the Cabinet's extraordinary meeting Tuesday on the kidnaping, the general trend of opinion emerged that Israel should not even make the faintest suggestion of a deal with the abductors. The opinion was voiced that in previous cases of hijacking, Israel had consistently condemned any yielding to blackmail. Therefore, what is good for foreigners must be good for Israelis too, they concluded.

Requests For U.S. Arms To Offset Equipment Egypt Receiving Not Yet Met

JERUSALEM, May 20 (JTA)--Israeli requests for American arms to counter-balance the new sophisticated military equipment including the MIG 23's, which Egypt has received have not yet been met, it was reliably learned today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Current delivery contracts are being scrupulously carried out, it was learned, but they expire in July. Israel's air combat strength at the end of July will be maintained. There is no problem of production delays because the American Air Force, which is reducing its activity in Vietnam, can supply aircraft from its stocks. It was also learned that Israeli approaches recently at high level in Washington have been met with the statement that "there is no hurry." There has been no mention whatsoever that the American reluctance is meant as a kind of pressure designed to induce Israel to make concessions. At a slightly lower level, some Israeli officials have recently been told by some American officials that "now that Anwar Sadat is in such trouble it is rather inconsiderate of Israel to face the United States with such requests." When told by Israelis that an American refusal to negotiate new arms contracts now might be interpreted in Israel as an attempt to exert pressure on the government and might have the opposite effect, namely to strengthen the extremists who oppose any withdrawal, the American officials are reported to have answered, "even the moderates who have the upper hand now are not moving an inch; thus it would hardly make a difference if the extremists were to win out."

Jarring Returns To Moscow; Will Be Available On Short Notice

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 20 (JTA)--Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, the United Nations' Middle East negotiator, emplanes for Moscow tonight to resume his formal duties as Swedish ambassador to the Soviet Union. His "limited duration" stay in New York will have lasted one week. Yesterday, he met with the ambassadors of Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon and then had a "chat" with Israeli envoy Yosef Tekoa. The chief purpose of Dr. Jarring's short stay here was to confer with Secretary General Thant and to hear a report from Secretary of State William P. Rogers on the latter's Mideast trip. Sources said Dr. Jarring believes there is nothing he can do at this time in regard to Mideast talks and that he must wait until American efforts to secure a Suez Canal-opening interim agreement have run their course. He is expected to return here at that point regardless of the outcome of the interim pact talks. An announcement today by a UN spokesman stated that Dr. Jarring "has now concluded (his) consultations and is returning, for the time being, to his post" in Moscow. The statement added that, "as usual, he will keep in touch with the Secretary General and will be available on short notice." Meanwhile, the Big Four UN ambassadors met yesterday without making any progress toward an agreement on Big Power guarantees of a Jarring-negotiated agreement acceptable to both Mideast sides. The envoys will confer again June 4.

Three Senators Urge U.S. Envoy To Moscow To Aid Zand

WASHINGTON, May 20 (JTA)--Three Senators yesterday urged the American Ambassador to Moscow to intercede on behalf of Prof. Mikhail I. Zand. In a cable to Jacob Beam, Sens. Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York; Robert P. Griffin, Republican of Michigan; and Alan Cranston, Democrat of California, urged Beam's "urgent intercession. Time is crucial. We urge your immediate assistance." Dr. Zand's visa was revoked last Friday hours after it had been issued and he was told to return Tuesday. When he returned, he was told to come back tomorrow.

Artistic, Cultural Activity in Israel Goes On Despite Military Stresses

LONDON, May 20 (JTA)--The chairman of the Friends of Art Museums of Israel painted a flattering portrait last night of culture-conscious Israelis. "The strains and stresses of the military and political situation in Israel do not divert the Israelis from cultural and artistic activity," said Pierre Gildegame, an English business executive also active in youth and sports programs. "Art is an indispensable part of life within the society that is now being created in Israel," he went on. "It is the purpose of the Friends of Art Museums of Israel to help provide for this need."

