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Israeli Leaders Shocked, Outraged At Elrom's Assassination; Funeral Arrangements Made

JERUSALEM, May 23 (JTA)--Israeli leaders voiced shock and outrage today over the murder by Turkish terrorists of Ephraim Elrom, Israel's Consul General in Istanbul, who was kidnaped from his apartment last Monday. Elrom's body was found yesterday with a bullet hole in his head, not far from the Consulate office. Premier Golda Meir denounced the murder today as "senseless." She cabled a personal message of condolence to Elrom's widow, Elsa. Mrs. Meir said: "Dearest Elsa, I have just heard the awful news. We wish we could comfort you but this is impossible. We are all with you in your terrible suffering." Mrs. Meir left today for Helsinki, Finland, where she will open a debate on the Middle East at a meeting of the Socialist International Council. Acting Premier Yigal Allon said at today's Cabinet meeting that Elrom's kidnap-murder was the work of "base criminals devoid of conscience who did not recoil from taking the life of a defenseless, innocent person." A leftist Turkish revolutionary group which styles itself the Turkish Peoples Liberation Army, claimed credit for the kidnaping. They demanded the release of all revolutionaries in Turkish custody in return for Elrom's life.

Turkish authorities launched a nation-wide dragnet which rounded up scores of suspects but were unable to apprehend the kidnapers. The ransom deadline passed on Thursday with no word of Elrom's fate. Reports from Istanbul on Friday suggested that a breakthrough was imminent. A 15 hour curfew and house-to-house search was ordered by the military commander in Istanbul. By then however, Elrom may already have been shot. Before departing for Helsinki Mrs. Meir said "I think a word of appreciation and thanks is due to the Turkish government" for its efforts to rescue Elrom. The kidnap-murder was viewed by Israelis as an act of sheer terrorism with no link to the Arab-Israel conflict although the Turkish terrorists are known to sympathize with the most extreme of the Palestinian guerrilla groups. President Zalman Shazar sent a message of condolence to Elrom's widow. He said, "We are shocked by the awful news of this cruel crime. Our hearts are with you in your grief which is the grief of all of us."

The Foreign Ministry and the Police have completed arrangements for Elrom's funeral. A coffin bearing his remains is due to arrive at Lydda Airport later this evening aboard a Turkish military transport plane. Arriving aboard the plane will be the widow and her sister, accompanied by the Turkish chief of protocol and the Deputy Director of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Moshe Sassoun who flew to Turkey last week. The plane will be met by Foreign Minister Abba Eban, Police Minister Shlomo Hillel and the chief military chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Goren. Elrom's remains will lie in state at the Tel Aviv section of the Foreign Ministry tomorrow where Eban and Hillel will deliver eulogies. The slain Israeli diplomat will be buried in the military section of the Kiryat Shaul cemetery near Tel Aviv.

Butman Dignified During Trial; Denies Charges; Kaminsky's Daughter Proud Of Father

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA)--Ilya Grigory (Hillel) Butman, who received the heaviest sentence at the second Leningrad trial--10 years at hard labor for "treason" and "anti-Soviet activities"--maintained a dignified bearing in court as he denied the charges against him and asserted that he wanted only to go to Israel, reliable Jewish sources reported here to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Also on the last day of the trial Thursday, Luba Kaminsky, 17-year-old daughter of defendant Lassa Kaminsky, who received a five-year sentence, stood up in court and cried: "I am proud of you, daddy!" the sources said. Meanwhile, the JTA learned, a Mr. and Mrs. Druk, sister and brother-in-law of Yosif M. Mendeleovich, who was sentenced to 15 years at the first Leningrad trial last December, have been blocked in their attempt to gain an emigration visa. The Druks went to the ovir (visa office) in Riga and asked the head of the office, identified by sources as Kaya, for permits. Jews waiting outside for their turn said they heard Kaya shout at Druk: "You are a bastard. I would beat you up and even kill you." Then, sources said, Kaya and his assistant, a Capt. Bolshakova, warned the couple that if they brought charges against the ovir chief they would be charged with perjury.

Riga Trial Monday; Kishinev Trial Wednesday; Trials Also In Kharkov, Odessa, Tbilisi

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA)--The trial of four Jews is scheduled to begin tomorrow in Riga and nine Jews are scheduled to go on trial Wednesday in Kishinev, according to Jewish sources here. Trials are also being prepared against Jews in Odessa, Kharkov and Tbilisi (Georgia). It is believed that the aim of these trials is to spread terror among Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel. Reports indicate these trials will be conducted behind closed doors. According to the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, the Soviet authorities are attempting to create the public impression, as they tried in the case of the Leningrad Nine, that the defendants are somehow linked with the alleged hijacking attempt of a Soviet airliner last June. "The fear is spreading among Russian Jewish communities that the security authorities are pursuing a calculated campaign to extend the net of arrests to all Jews actively seeking immigration to Israel," it is reported in the latest issue of "Underground," a Jewish Community Council publication which deals with Jewish news in the Soviet Union. "A situation has arisen in which it is sufficient to own a Hebrew-language textbook or an Israeli record to be the object of suspicion of anti-Soviet activity." On April 30, according to "Underground," an estimated 67 Riga Jews signed a letter to the Executive Council of the Riga Municipal Council, demanding the right to hold a public rally and demonstration protesting the forthcoming trial.

The letter read, in part: "We also ask to be given facilities for street demonstrations and that an unbroken telephone connection with Israel be assured to us for the transmission of reports of our activities..." Copies of the letter were sent to the Riga Militia Department and to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR. On May 15, the 67 signatories were asked to appear at the offices

of the Riga municipality, the "Underground" report continues. Several of the signatories were told to come directly to the police. The municipal chairman, one named Kadikis, met with three representatives and told them that a protest meeting against the trial would be considered an anti-Soviet act and would not be allowed. The three representatives told Kadikis that the rally would be held as planned because it was permitted under the constitution. Kadikis then warned them that all those attending would be punished in accordance with the law. According to reports by Western observers reaching here, Soviet authorities are nervous about the situation. Practically all contact between Jews in the Soviet Union, especially those in Latvia, and Jews in the West have been cut off. The phones of Jews known to have been sending news abroad have been disconnected and the secret police are preventing people from using public telephones for making calls abroad. One of the Riga prisoners is Ruth Aleksandrovich, a 23-year-old nurse, who has been held in solitary confinement since her arrest eight months ago. According to "Underground," "her physical condition is serious, having contracted severe asthma as a result of her harsh confinement. She is also losing her teeth because of the insufficient diet."

Another prisoner is Aahron (Arkady) Shpilberg. Following his arrest, his wife gave birth to their second child. "His behavior under interrogation has, throughout, been magnificent," according to "Underground." "He is refusing to cooperate with the interrogators, declaring innocence of the crime he has allegedly committed." A third prisoner is Mikhail Shapishovskiy. He, too, is refusing to admit to the alleged crime of which he is to be charged and refuses to testify against the others who will be tried with him. There is no immediate information about the fourth prisoner. "Underground" also reports that "extraordinary efforts are being made by the security authorities to ensure that the families of the accused will have no means to communicate to the outside world the events in the courtroom. Thus, the relatives of the accused have been instructed to appear at the trial not as observers but as witnesses. This will deprive them from attending any of the sessions and will only appear for their own cross-examination." Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, Ruth's mother, currently on tour in the United States to enlist public opinion on behalf of her daughter and the other Riga prisoners, has confirmed reports that several Riga Jews have been given exit visas so that they would not be present to testify on behalf of the accused. One of the persons removed from the scene was Isalah Auerbach, Ruth's fiancée, who was tried before an administrative court and sentenced to 14 days imprisonment on the charge of "disobedience toward the authorities and the police." The couple were to have been married two days before Ruth's arrest.

Leningrad Trial Evokes Anger Around The World; Protest Rallies Held In Number Of Cities

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA)--World-wide reaction to the trial and sentences of nine Jews in Leningrad last Thursday was not likely to comfort Soviet officials worried about their nation's image abroad. The response ranged from expressions of anger and disgust over the proceedings to sober editorial analyses in leading newspapers which found the quality of Soviet justice wanting. The reaction by Western government spokesmen was cautious. After observing that because foreign newsmen were barred from the trial "we can't know precisely what transpired and the exact nature of the evidence involved," State Department spokesman Charles Bray said at Friday's press briefing, "To the extent that the issues were the desire of people to live where they choose or preserve their cultural heritage--to the exclusion of other factors--we should judge such trials to be in violation of human rights." In reply to questions, Bray said he did not know whether or not the State Department planned to file protests with the United Nations and its various international organizations. French officials at the UN said their government has not spoken out publicly against the treatment of Soviet Jews because it feels that would be "counter-productive." One official said, "We have always been anti-racist but we must be discreet." He added that a personal comment to Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko by French Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann would be far more beneficial to Soviet Jewry than public criticism of the Kremlin. The official said he did not know if Schumann ever made such a comment to Gromyko.

The London Telegraph reported yesterday that about 80,000 Jewish families totalling some 350,000 persons are known to have applied for permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The paper observed that this indicated that the trials and the attitude of general hostility toward Jews have not had the desired effect of intimidation. "The Soviet government has never before been faced with a social problem on such a scale which they cannot deal with simply by the use of force and repression," the paper added. Commenting on the Leningrad trial today, Mrs. Henry Rapaport, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, said "These sentences are ominous on the eve of the trials of other Jews to begin soon in five Russian cities. World opinion must understand this and cry out not only against the severity of the punishment but to challenge the basic definition of what constitutes a crime under Soviet law in face of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which gives people freedom to leave their country of residence." Monroe Abbey, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said in Montreal on Friday that "unless the world raises its voice" the nine Jews sentenced in Leningrad "will join the many other victims of religious and cultural genocide in the Siberian prison camps." He said the sentences pronounced on the nine "can be equated to a living death." He said "We will use all avenues available in a democratic society to protest and register our concern in a non-violent fashion."

The Confederation of Brazilian Jews in Sao Paulo sent a cable to the Soviet Ambassador protesting the Leningrad trials and the other pending trials of Jews whose "Only crime is their wish to emigrate to Israel." The group also asked the Brazilian Foreign Minister to make the Soviet government aware of "Brazil's repudiation of trials that offend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." In San Francisco, 300 people demonstrated against the Leningrad trial outside the home of the Soviet Consul General Alexander Zinchik. They represented the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry and were joined by a contingent of Hadassah members returning from a regional convention. In New York, the Jewish Labor Committee denounced the Leningrad sentences as "unjust" in cables to the chief Soviet prosecutor, Roman A. Rudenko and to members of the Supreme Soviet and the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Russian Republic.

Rabbi Calls On Federation To Establish 10,000 Scholarships To Save Day Schools

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA)—Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, called today on the New York Federation of Jewish Philanthropies to "establish a minimum of 10,000 scholarships to the New York Hebrew Day Schools." These schools, he told more than 1,000 delegates and guests attending the organization's annual national dinner, are "almost without exception in danger of financial bankruptcy." Calling for massive support, Rabbi Karasick warned that unless such support is forthcoming, the Orthodox Jewish community may be forced to consider the establishment of "a separate national Torah Fund for which many leaders have been pressing for some time. Reluctantly, we might have to go along if present Federation tendencies and attitudes do not change fundamentally and result in meaningful Day School support." Rabbi Karasick ascribed the situation of financial hardship of the Day Schools to the rising costs of education which, he affirmed, have driven tuition fees up, with \$1,000 or more now being charged for each child.

He asked the Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds to assume the responsibility for the continued existence of the Day Schools and "to do so not grudgingly but out of a collective sense of appreciation for the historic achievements of the Day School movement." Rabbi Karasick asserted: "The Federation, therefore, must set the precedent of vigorous action and re-order its priorities to give substantial and meaningful support to Jewish education. The continued failure of Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds to put Jewish education first, is one of the most distressing ills of contemporary American Jewish life." Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, urged the congregational lay leaders "to change their image of the American rabbi." He decried the fact that the American rabbi is often overburdened by executive and fund raising duties, with little time left for scholarship and study. Samuel Lawrence Brennglass, prominent New York lawyer and communal leader, received the organization's highest award, the Kether Shem Tov (Crown of the Good Name) Award.

Jewish Students Meet With ADL To Discuss Names Given To FBI

WASHINGTON, May 23 (JTA)—"Deeply disturbed" at disclosures that the Philadelphia branch of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has given the names of Jewish Defense League activists to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 150 students here petitioned for and were granted an appointment with members of the ADL board. The students met on Friday with Jay Silverman, regional director of the ADL, to urge an immediate halt to the ADL's policy of cooperating with "responsible" agencies when asked for public information about Jews and Jewish groups; an immediate halt to ADL "surveillance" of such individuals and groups, and the creation of a B'nai B'rith committee to investigate the ADL. The students said the ADL policy was "abhorrent to us." Silverman said the protest was a legitimate one and that the students were courteous. At the next meeting, late next month, of the District of Columbia-Maryland Regional Advisory Board of the ADL, board members will hear the students' complaints voiced by a delegation of three—Larry Friedman, a high school student and an employee of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization; Mitchell Kniesbacher, a senior at the University of Maryland and a Hillel Foundation coordinator; and Richard Spiegel, an activist for Soviet Jewry.

Appeal Issued To Presbyterian Body For Massive Moral Support For Soviet Jews

ROCHESTER, N.Y., May 23 (JTA)—An appeal for massive moral support of the human rights of Russian Jewry and others who are being denied cultural and religious self-determination in the Soviet Union was issued here this weekend by Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national Interreligious Affairs Director of the American Jewish Committee. Speaking at the general assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, Rabbi Tanenbaum told the almost 800 delegates that in appealing for this support "the Jewish community is not interested in heating up the cold war. The Jewish people is committed to peace." However, Rabbi Tanenbaum continued, "The continued denial of those rights will continue to counter-act any serious movement toward international reconciliation, and will undermine the credibility of the Soviet Union as a true seeker of peace and concord." Rabbi Tanenbaum appeared before the assembly to introduce Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, mother of Ruth Aleksandrovich, Mrs. Aleksandrovich, the first Jew to address a United Presbyterian Church assembly, received a standing ovation from the delegates. Speaking in English, the 47-year-old instructor in English at the university level in the Soviet Union before she was allowed to leave for Israel, said her daughter's only "faults" were a desire to emigrate to Israel. "It is abominable that in the 20th century, persons are punished not for a crime, but for a belief," she said.

Two Syrian Sukhoi-7 Bombers Overfly Golan Heights; Israel Issues Complaint

TEL AVIV, May 23 (JTA)—Israel complained to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization yesterday that two Syrian Sukhoi-7 bombers overflew Israeli positions on the Golan Heights. The bodies of two Syrian soldiers killed in a clash on the Heights last week were returned to Syria today under Red Cross supervision. Two other Syrian soldiers were wounded and captured in the encounter.

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

NEW YORK, May 23 (JTA)—Soviet authorities are taking elaborate precautions to keep Jews, news-men and spectators away from the secret trial of four Jews scheduled to open tomorrow in Riga, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from reliable sources. The sources said the site of the trial has been moved from the Supreme Court in Riga to a special building at Vetsmel Gravis, a peninsula on the Baltic Sea outside of Riga. According to the sources, only one bridge gives access to the peninsula and this apparently will be heavily guarded. The same sources told the JTA that 12 Riga Jews who had planned to demonstrate against the trial tomorrow were given exit visas last Friday on condition that they cancel the demonstration and leave the country within five days. The sources said that one member of the group, Misha Neuberger, whom the authorities regard as an extreme militant, was arrested and sentenced to 15 days in jail for "hooliganism."

