

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Kishinev Trial Postponed; Three Riga Defendants Deny Anti-Soviet Activities

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--The trial of nine Jews scheduled to open in Kishinev tomorrow has been postponed, authoritative Jewish sources said here today. There was no immediate explanation for the decision. Yesterday, on the first day of the trial of four Jews in Riga, three of the defendants categorically denied having engaged in anti-Soviet activities, the sources reported. The three were Ruth Aleksandrovich, Mikhail Shepshelovich and Arkady Shpilberg. As evidence against them and Boris Maftsier, the prosecution submitted a copy of a one-page journal called "Ifon" (Hebrew for newspaper) containing an article titled "My National Language." The language referred to was Hebrew. Reports from Jewish sources in Riga said that Jews there have been plunged into gloom and foreboding since the trial opened. There was slight hope among them that the Soviet authorities might reconsider and end the trial under the pressure of world public opinion. Because of the secrecy of the court proceedings, the stringent police measures to keep away spectators and newsmen, and rumors of a demonstration of defiance by local Jews, an atmosphere of tension prevails in the Soviet Latvian capital--and not only among the Jews. Meanwhile, in Marseilles, an Algerian-born Israeli tried to commit hara-kiri today during a demonstration against the Riga trial. Daniel Baccry, 38, plunged a knife into his stomach and was hospitalized.

## State Department Deplores 'In Strongest Terms' Murder Of Elrom

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Charles W. Bray said today of the kidnapping-murder in Istanbul of Israeli Consul General Ephraim Elrom that the Department "continues to deplore in the strongest terms possible this form of criminal behavior." Bray also offered "sincerest condolence" to Elrom's widow, Elsa. (Meanwhile, in Istanbul, Parliament was expected to approve today the government's request that the one-month period of martial law imposed April 26 in the wake of internal disturbances be extended for two more months. Parliament is also expected to pass a government-sponsored, retroactive capital-punishment law for kidnappings. Eight men and a woman are being sought in the Elrom case.)

## Zand's Exit Visa Turned Down For 'Indefinite Time'; Requests Israeli Citizenship

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--Prof. Mikhail Zand, the Russian Jewish linguist trying to emigrate to Israel, was told by Soviet authorities that his exit visa has been postponed for "an indefinite time" when he visited the Moscow visa office last Friday for the third time in a week, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. The information came from Prof. Herbert Paper of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor who spoke to Zand by telephone for 35 minutes Friday. Zand and his family were granted exit permits on May 16 after months of waiting. But the visa was revoked on the same day pending an investigation of alleged "undesirable activities" by Zand. He was told to come back to the visa office the following Tuesday. When he showed up he was put off again until last Friday. He then had his telephone conversation with Prof. Paper, an old friend and colleague. Zand, who specializes in Oriental languages and literature, has many friends in the American academic community. More than 200 Southern California professors cabled Kremlin leaders last week to permit the Zand family to emigrate. They were joined by Senators Alan Cranston, of California, Jacob Javits of New York and Robert Griffin of Michigan who wired U.S. Ambassador Jacob Beam in Moscow asking him to intercede on behalf of the Zands.

Sources in Los Angeles reported today that Zand formally requested Israeli citizenship last week after hearing a report on the Voice of Israel broadcast that the Knesset passed an amendment to the immigration laws permitting the Interior Minister to confer Israeli citizenship in absentia on any Jew who wants it and is prevented from coming to Israel. Prof. Paper, who teaches languages at Ann Arbor, has urged the academic world to speak out in behalf of Zand. In a letter published in the Washington Post yesterday he said: "Can we scholars and colleagues rest while this miscarriage of justice is carried out and while this most talented student of languages and literature is converted to a political pariah? I call on my colleagues everywhere to protest in the strongest terms through news media and privately to any and all official Soviet representatives that their continued policy of harassing dissenting scholars and writers is beneath contempt." The charge of "undesirable activities" against Zand is believed to stem from conversations he had with Western newsmen.

## France Speeding Up Delivery Of Mirage Jets To Libya

PARIS, May 25 (JTA)--France is speeding up its deliveries of Mirage jets to Libya at the request of the Libyan government, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from circles close to the Dassault firm which manufactures the supersonic aircraft. France agreed last year to sell Libya 110 Mirages with deliveries to be spaced through 1972. According to the JTA's informants, more than 20 Mirages have been delivered already and the pace will be increased in coming months. Observers here believe the Libyans want as many of the 110 Mirages as possible in their possession by next September when a popular referendum will be held to ratify the projected federation of Libya with Egypt and Syria. They want them as a precaution against any surprise decision by France to embargo the planes if the Federation agreement is implemented. France stipulated in its contract with the Tripoli regime that the planes must not be transferred to a third power. French officials have said that if that stipulation was violated, the deliveries of Mirages would be halted. France still maintains an arms embargo against the nations it regards as belligerents in the Middle East conflict because of their participation in the 1967 war. They are Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. Libya is not regarded as a belligerent but its federation with Egypt and Syria might make it one in French eyes. Some of the jets already delivered to Libya are training models.

## Two Israeli Soldiers Injured In Grenade Attack; Rockets Fired On Belsan Settlement

TEL AVIV, May 25 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers were injured last night when a hand grenade was thrown at them at Dir el Balah in the Gaza Strip. Two terrorist infiltrators from Lebanon were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol near Biranit in Upper Galilee at midnight last night. There were no Israeli casualties. Three months of quiet along the Jordanian border was ended last night when Katyusha rockets were fired from Jordanian territory at Sdeh Eliyahu settlement in the Belsan area. Members of the settlement took to shelters and there were no casualties. Israeli units returned the fire. Israeli sources said Jordanian units also fired at the terrorists after the rockets were launched.

## Israel Still Waiting Answer From Egypt In Interim Proposals

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Official circles here said today that Israel is still waiting for "a substantive answer" from Egypt to its proposals for an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal. Israel has expected the Egyptian reply to be conveyed through Washington, the circles said. They noted that this week's talks in Washington between Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin and Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco produced no Egyptian reply although Sisco had promised one "within a short while." He was expected to get the Egyptian answer when he made a second visit to Cairo on May 8 at the end of his and Secretary of State William F. Rogers' Middle East tour. The circles said that progress toward an interim settlement was being held up by the absence of Egyptian response parallel to Israel's. "As far as we are concerned the door is still open," they said.

## Penal Code Change To Make Offenders Against Property, Person Abroad Punishable

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--The Knesset today passed the first reading of an amendment to the Israeli penal code which would make any damage to Israeli property abroad or injury to Israeli citizens punishable under Israeli law. The measure is directed against terrorist attacks on Israeli premises in foreign countries and aerial hijackings. It was first proposed three years ago when an El Al airliner was hijacked to Algeria by Palestinian terrorists.

## Israel Bond Organization Strike Continues; Union Urges Settlement To Avoid Bond Losses

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--The strike of 500 employees of the Israel Bond Organization went into its second week today with no signs of an early settlement in sight. All parties agreed that a six hour negotiating session with New York State mediators last Thursday produced no progress toward an agreement. Solomon Kreitman, one of the mediators, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this morning that he hoped to hold another mediation session before the end of the week but as of today none was scheduled. A spokesman for the Bond Organization said he thought another session might be scheduled today but a spokesman for Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO didn't expect another meeting this week. The union and the Bond Organization disagreed on the effects of the strike to date. A Bond spokesman said all Bond affairs and promotions were being held on schedule with no diminution of response despite picketing in some cities. The union claimed however that Bond sales were suffering and that Israel was losing "millions of dollars." In a statement issued by Dick Morton, executive director of Local 1707, he called on the Israel Bond Organization to "enter immediately into serious negotiations so that the campaign will not suffer which means that Israel will not suffer." Morton added that "the staff of the Israel Bond campaign, which raised \$211 million last year, is most anxious to resume the arduous tasks involved in fulfilling the goal of \$400 million in Israel Bond sales this year."

## Peled Denies Black Panther Charges State Wastes Funds On New Immigrants

JERUSALEM, May 25 (JTA)--Immigrant Absorption Minister Natan Peled denied today recent charges by Black Panthers that State funds are being wasted on new immigrants while the Israeli poor are being neglected. Replying to questions at a press luncheon, Peled said, however, that he was looking into the matter of granting new immigrants loans to buy cars. He said that to his knowledge no immigrants who purchase luxury apartments have applied for government loans, although they would be entitled to them under existing practice. He said that if such applications were made he would consider restricting the loans. Jerusalem's self-styled Black Panthers are slum youths, mostly of North African and Asian origin. They have demonstrated, sometimes violently, against what they allege is discrimination against Oriental Jews in housing, employment and education. They have charged that new immigrants from the Soviet Union and from affluent Western countries receive generous financial aid from the State while impoverished slum dwellers are neglected. Peled said he has set up a committee to examine the whole problem. Peled added that as a matter of principle "there is no reason to neglect immigrant absorption in order to find funds to fight poverty." He suggested other areas where funds could be diverted, such as public building. "The underprivileged sectors of the population should be given serious care...In my view social development should be given no less priority than national security," Peled said.

## Billy Graham Calls On Christians To Join In Prayer For Riga Defendants

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, the prominent evangelist and outspoken supporter of Israel, called on the Christian world today to "join in prayer" for the Jewish defendants in Riga. Dr. Graham, in a message released here and at his Minneapolis headquarters, said he was "deeply concerned and disturbed" at the trial of the four Jews, since "apparently their only crime is that they are Jewish." He singled out 24-year-old defendant Ruth Aleksandrovich, calling her "one of the youngest political prisoners in the world" and noting that she "has been imprisoned and held incommunicado in Riga for nine months." The Graham statement was read here at a meeting called by the American Jewish Committee, at which Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, the mother of the defendant, addressed 30 Christian leaders. The sixteen who stayed to the end of the two-hour program signed a telegram to President Nixon urging him to "intercede" with the Soviet authorities to effect "the release and restoration of (the prisoners') full religious and civil rights."

## Protestant Clerics Less Anti-Semitic But Many Unaware Of Unconscious Prejudices

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--A "silent majority" of Protestant clergymen are helping to perpetuate the status quo on social and political problems, according to a comprehensive study made public yesterday by Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The study, entitled "Wayward Shepherds: Prejudice and the Protestant Clergy," reveals that although Protestant clergy are much less anti-Semitic than their parishioners, they remain "a good deal more anti-Semitic than they ought to be." Prepared by a team of four behavioral scientists--Rodney Stark, Bruce D. Foster, Charles Y. Glock and Harold E. Quinley--under a grant from the Anti-Defamation League, the work will be published this month by Harper and Row. The study is based on more than five years of research conducted for the League by the University of California Survey Research Center. The analysis shows that Protestant clergy are much less anti-Semitic than they used to be even though this ancient attitude persists. The general basis for ill will toward Jews is hostility to Judaism as a religion stemming from what the authors call unwavering commitment to "traditional" Christian teachings. These blame Jews for the crucifixion of Jesus and believe the Jews to be beyond redemption unless they convert. Noting that "clergymen are remarkably free of anti-Semitism which is not rooted in religious hostility," the study points out that if "conceptions of contemporary Jews as unforgiven for the crucifixion and under a curse from God could be eliminated from Christian consciousness," considerable progress toward eliminating anti-Semitism could be made.

The study grades ministers on an anti-Semitism index--with 37 percent scoring "none," 46 percent rating "low," and 17 percent falling in the "medium to high" category. The authors declare that they are more pessimistic today about the change-producing potential of churches than they were after doing their first study of clergymen in 1966. The researchers say that church pronouncements exonerating the ancient Jews of deicide "will not reduce the anti-Semitism of Christians unless they are coupled with an attack on notions of the contemporary Jews as damned and an object of divine retribution." Overall, it was found that while one of five laymen had rejected all the anti-Semitic statements, nearly two of five clergy did so. It was also found that among the clergy, anti-Semitism is more highly correlated with their religious convictions than was the case among church members. The sociologists go on to say that among those clergymen who scored medium to high on the anti-Semitism index, 85 percent failed to recognize, or at least to admit, that they harbor any ill will toward Jews. "Anti-Semitism may not be rampant among the clergy," the sociologists declare, "but neither is self-awareness." In making the study public, Graubard said that the Anti-Defamation League will intensify its meetings with Christian leaders to discuss its implications and to find ways of instituting cooperative efforts for improving the situation.

## Three Jewish Youngsters Claiming To Be JDL's Vandalize Yeshiva

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--Three Jewish teen-agers who claimed to be members of the Jewish Defense League were arrested by police Sunday night in the act of vandalizing the Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch Yeshiva in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today. The youngsters, aged 15-16, were released on \$500 bail and ordered to appear in court for a hearing June 2. Their names were withheld because of their age. One was reported to be a student at the Lubavitcher Yeshiva in Brooklyn and the others attend high school in the Bronx. Rabbi Jacob Breuer, principal of the Raphael Hirsch Yeshiva which has a student body of 800, told the JTA that incidents of vandalism occurred on Sunday night, May 16 and again on May 23. He estimated the damage at \$2,500. He said the Yeshiva premises were broken into, rooms were flooded, typewriters, blackboards and bulletin boards smashed and telephones pulled from the walls. He said the walls were smeared with swastikas, obscenities and slogans which he said were characteristic of the JDL such as "an eye-for-an-eye," "let my people go" and "six million, not one more." Rabbi Breuer said one of the youngsters arrested last Sunday was wearing a JDL uniform and insignia and that all of them claimed to be members of the militant organization. But there was no other evidence linking the youths with the JDL. The JTA found no one available for comment at JDL headquarters today.

Dr. Joseph Kaminetsky, national director of Torah Umesorah, the National Society of Hebrew Day Schools of which the Raphael Hirsch Yeshiva is a member, expressed amazement and disbelief when questioned by the JTA today. He said he knew of the vandalization but found it difficult to believe that the JDL, which he said was committed to Jewish identity, would engage in such acts. He said he could think of nothing that would have motivated Jewish youths to desecrate a Jewish religious school. Dr. Kaminetsky said he learned of the incident only yesterday, when he returned from St. Louis, and planned an investigation but had not decided how to carry it out. He said the schools of the Torah Umesorah concentrated on education, were not politically active and eschewed violence as a form of protest. Rabbi Breuer said the police were not called after the first incident of vandalism. He said he contacted the JDL which denied any knowledge of the act and did not seem very interested. Questioned by the JTA as to a possible motive, he said that the school had consistently refused to approve of JDL tactics or to participate in its demonstrations.

## VOA Rejects Request To Include Yiddish Language Segment In Broadcasts To USSR

WASHINGTON, May 25 (JTA)--The Voice of America has rejected a Congressman's request that it act promptly to include a Yiddish-language segment in its eight-hour-a-day broadcasts into the Soviet Union. Charles D. Abland, general counsel of the U.S. Information Agency, which operates the VOA, advised Rep. John G. Dow, Republican of N.Y., that "a decision to add any amount of time on a regular basis in a new language would involve policy requiring approval at higher levels"--the USIA and the State Department. Abland explained that "a Yiddish-language program could not be accommodated on our existing facilities simultaneously with other existing programs," but would require adding new transmitting facilities that would cost \$2-2 1/2 million. Another N.Y. Republican, Peter A. Payser, told the House yesterday that the programming change "would fill a need which exists and...provide psychological support" to the three million Soviet Jews. Dow and Payser have written to USIA director Frank Shakespear and to President Nixon to press their case.

## Jewish Students At NYU Plan Campaign To Close School On High Holy Days

NEW YORK, May 25 (JTA)--A group of Jewish students at New York University, the nation's largest private university, disclosed plans today for an intensive pressure campaign to obtain closing of the school on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur after three fruitless meetings with President James Hester and other university officials for that objective. Denise Baker, a senior who is a member of the Jewish Culture Foundation, a campus group, and a member of the editorial board of Te-Chiyat Hanefesh, an independent activist publication at NYU, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that she and other students had sought talks with the university officials in the belief they would be "open" to a peaceful presentation of the views of many of the thousands of Jewish students, as well as of many of its Jewish faculty members, on the school's two campuses. A student delegation met with Dr. Hester and the university's attorney last fall and presented the case for closing the university where a majority of the students and possibly of the faculty members are believed to be Jewish.

The students pointed out that throughout the metropolitan area, the move to close public schools, colleges and businesses on the first day of the Jewish New Year and on Yom Kippur has been growing steadily in recent years. Miss Baker said Dr. Hester replied that the university was entirely non-sectarian and that closing it on the Jewish holy days would be a breach of the church-state separation principle. She said the students met with Dr. Hester again on May 11 and received the same arguments. At a meeting of the University Senate on May 13, the Jewish students presented petitions for a closing bearing 2,500 signatures. The matter was turned over to the educational policy committee and the calendar committee, which, Miss Baker said, the students later learned was a routine procedure by which the university administration "buried" proposals it opposed. The group, thereupon, demanded the return of the petitions but was told they were now university property and would not be returned. The Jewish students have decided that "rational dialogue" with the university administration is futile but they remain committed to a non-violent strategy, Miss Baker said.

Planning will proceed during the summer on a campaign to enlist alumni support for pressure on the administration, including withholding of contributions to the school, to bring the university administration stand before the general public and to seek the help of Jewish organizations to change that stand. Asked why the Jewish students had undertaken their effort without seeking backing from Jewish organizations, Miss Baker said the students had believed sincerely that the university administration would yield to "rational appeals" and that they had no idea the administration would be "totally" unresponsive. She said the student leaders hoped to organize a major pressure campaign this summer to be ready to launch when classes are resumed next September. She said a very large number of Jewish students observe the High Holy Days and do not attend school. This has resulted in hardships since those days normally come at the start of the school year when class schedules and other essential programs are arranged. She added that many Jewish faculty members also do not attend, forcing cancellation of their classes. None of these arguments affected the university officials, she added.

## U.S. - Israel Scientist Urges More Brandeis Camps In Both Nations

LOS ANGELES, May 25 (JTA)--Dr. David M. Weiss, former University of California immunologist now with the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Israel, who spoke last weekend at Brandeis Camp Institute, Santa Susana, believes this country and Israel could use more "living Judaism laboratories" like Brandeis. "If there were 10 places like it in the United States, and two or three in Israel, I would feel vastly more confident that Judaism will survive," Dr. Weiss stated. Such an expansion, in his opinion, would help Judaism to "remain a relevant and powerful force in the daily lives of Jews" and "continue its dynamic unfolding and developing despite the erosions of value and sentiment which characterize the age." Brandeis is unique, he said. "I know of no other place where Jewish college students who have had no previous commitment or even exposure to Judaism, who often come half-hostile to the very idea of positive Jewish identity, will spend whole days suddenly caught up in searching arguments on the nature of God..."

## Nebraska Legislature Adopts Resolution Urging U.S. To Halt Pressure On Israel

LINCOLN, Neb., May 25 (JTA)--The State Legislature of Nebraska has called on the United States government to "impose no pressure upon Israel to withdraw or to sacrifice any territory without the establishment of a true peace." Adherence to a policy of friendship and support for Israel was urged in a resolution adopted by the 82nd Legislature here by a vote of 31-1. The measure was introduced by Senators Terry Carpenter and Sam Klaver. The only negative vote was cast by Sen. Richard Proulx. The resolution stated in part, "We believe that it is in the best interests of the United States that the people of Israel be able to dwell in freedom within safe and secure boundaries, and that they have the means to defend their liberty and to deter Soviet aggression, and that great powers not impose upon them political settlements which would jeopardize their future." The resolution further called on the U.S. to "encourage direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors to effect a permanent end to armed conflict with recognition of the sovereignty of all parties and the right of Israel to have secure and recognized boundaries"; to "establish the freedom of the seas for all nations in the area and in all waterways including the Suez Canal and the Straits of Tiran."

## Rabbi Sassoon Khadourie, Chief Rabbi Of Iraq, Dies At 91

LONDON, May 25 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Sassoon Khadourie, of Iraq, died in Baghdad yesterday at the age of 91, according to information reaching here today. He was the spiritual leader of a Jewish community that had dwindled to 3,000 from 150,000 during the 23 years since the establishment of Israel. Khadourie was born in Baghdad and served as Chief Rabbi of Iraq since 1932. In recent years he had spoken out in defense of the Baathist regime and against Zionism, claiming that discriminatory treatment of Iraqi Jews ended when the present regime took office. But his public statements were made under the watchful eyes of Iraqi officials who provided Western newsmen with approved translations. The feeling among knowledgeable observers was that the aged rabbi was being cruelly exploited by Iraqi authorities for propaganda purposes. In his last statement to the press on April 23 he denounced "Zionist and imperialist propaganda directed against Iraq."