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Riga Four Get 1-3 Years At Strict Labor; Prosecutor Had Asked For Up To 4 Years

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--The four defendants in the Riga trial were sentenced today to 1-3 year terms at "strict labor," according to reports received here. The only surprise in the announcement of the verdict was that Arkady Shpilberg received the 3-year term instead of the 4 years asked for yesterday by the prosecutor. There was no immediate explanation for this lesser sentence. Mikhail Shephelovich was sentenced to 2 years and Miss Ruth Aleksandrovich and Boris Maftsier were sentenced to 1 year each. No appeal is possible because the case was tried in Latvia's highest court. The time already served in prison while awaiting trial is expected to be deducted from the sentences. Miss Aleksandrovich had been imprisoned seven months and Maftsier nine months. The Riga Four were officially charged with "organizing the publication and distribution of writings containing slanderous fabrications that cast aspersions on the Soviet State and social system." The defendants maintained that they were not guilty of any anti-Soviet activities.

Mrs. Aleksandrovich Calm, Not Surprised At News Of Daughter's Sentence

BOSTON, May 27 (JTA)--Rivka Aleksandrovich received the news of her daughter's sentence in a calm, unsurprised and unfeared manner, a source close to the Russian Jewish activist reported today. Her first act, immediately upon hearing the news, was to call her husband in Riga, who confirmed the verdict and told her that Ruth had contracted a kidney ailment from the prison's damp quarters. She is also suffering from an asthmatic condition and is losing her teeth. According to the source, Aleksandrovich also expressed to his wife his concern about the fate of Ruth's fiance, Isaiah Averbuch, who was sentenced to a 15-day prison term by Russian authorities. It was reported earlier that Averbuch and Misha Neuberger, who was also jailed for 15 days, have gone on a hunger strike.

Socialist International Adopts Pro-Israeli Resolution Despite Soviet Pressure

HELSINKI, May 27 (JTA)--After two days of heated debate, and despite Soviet pressures from the sidelines, the Socialist International adopted a pro-Israeli resolution today. It called for maintenance of the arms balance in the Middle East in light of Soviet shipments to Egypt and Syria and recommended direct Israeli-Arab negotiations. Finland, which invited two Egyptian observers and supported the Soviet line throughout the debate, voted against the arms-balance section and abstained with Sweden on the direct-negotiations plank. The Socialist measure also called for strict observance of the American-initiated case-fire, which officially expired March 7, and full support for United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. Earlier, Israeli Premier Golda Meir received a very friendly reception from the convention after delivering a keynote address. She stated that "the Jewish people will not accept an interim arrangement for the reopening of the Suez Canal which would result in a return of the Egyptian Army and the Soviet missiles to the east bank of the waterway and in the diminishing of the security of the State of Israel."

She charged that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's talk of peace was actually "a step towards the elimination of Israel." Mrs. Meir also rejected again an imposed settlement. "The big powers have proved in the past quite unable to defend Israel," she declared. "The UN turned out entirely ineffectual in 1948 as well as in 1967. Israel can only rely on her own strength, and she is not going to entrust her fate to the Security Council." Mrs. Meir added: "Guarantees have proved useless too. Remember de Gaulle--he let us down in the hour of our greatest danger." The Israeli Premier said it was "astonishing to reflect that in this day and age, in 1971, the big powers still believe that they could decide on the fate of other nations." She said Israel would continue to support the Jarring negotiations without precondition. Sharing the platform with Mrs. Meir were West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, Austrian Prime Minister Bruno Kreisky, Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme, Norwegian Prime Minister Trygve Brattelie and former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

Galili Says Interim Solution For Canal Reopening May Be Shelved For Some Time

TEL AVIV, May 27 (JTA)--Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, one of Premier Golda Meir's closest confidants, said today that an interim solution for reopening the Suez Canal would probably be shelved for some time. Speaking to a group of journalists, Galili said Egyptian President Anwar Sadat apparently wants time to gain more maneuverability following his crushing of an alleged pro-Soviet in-government conspiracy, and to do that must consolidate his still-shaky hold. Political circles in Jerusalem added that Israel believes Sadat will have his hands full seeking to strengthen his grip on the government, at least until the July 23 elections of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's only political party. Israel believes Sadat cannot afford to engage in any military adventure now, especially as another Egyptian defeat would be disastrous for him. The U.S., in fact, has asked Israel to "show understanding for Sadat's delicate position," the sources said.

Galili seemed to be cautioning Washington on this point today when, asked about Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's fear that U.S. arms may be more difficult as the time goes on, he commented: "I hope our American friends will not let us down." Sadat conferred in Cairo last night with Soviet President Nikolai V. Podgorny. They agreed on continued Kremlin aid to Egypt and renewed efforts to "liberate" the occupied Arab territories. Concurrently, Soviet Ambassador Vladimir M. Vinogradov told the ASU newspaper Al Gomhouria that the USSR had provided Egypt with \$720 million in aid over the past decade and has promised another \$500 million over the next five years. The two government set up special subcommittees to discuss mutual political and military matters. Vinogradov also told the Cairo paper that "it is possible to achieve a political solution (in the Mideast) if efforts are stepped up." Those efforts, he said, "should exceed all that have so far been exerted."

Israeli Envoys Instructed To Exert Influence Against Common Market Recommendations

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban has instructed all Israeli envoys to exert their influence against the recommendations reportedly contained in the document adopted recently by the Foreign Ministers of the Common Market countries. The document reportedly endorses virtually total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Political circles here said that while the document was not yet formally approved by the six Common Market members, that situation was due to energetic action by Israel, including a letter by Eban to his Common Market counterparts warning them of Israel's objections to the resolution. The disclosures by the political circles confirmed a May 24 report by the JTA Daily News Bulletin.

Citizens Committee Set Up To Work For Rescue Of Jews In Arab Countries

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--A citizens committee for Jews in Arab lands has been set up under the chairmanship of Supreme Court Judge Haim Cohn and will hold its founding meeting June 1 in Jerusalem. The aim of the committee is to work for the rescue of Jews in Arab lands, to arouse Israeli and world public opinion to this task and to support such international public bodies as the International Committee for the Jews in Arab Lands whose chairman is Alain Pöher, President of the French Senate. Taking part in the Israeli citizens committee are public figures from all segments of the population including intellectuals and businessmen. The committee hopes to enlist worldwide public support among statesmen, intellectuals, clergymen and youth for the struggle against the oppression of Jews in Arab countries and for guaranteeing these Jews basic human rights--above all, the right to emigrate. Judge Cohn has been active in the past on the international level in furthering human rights and in Jan. 1970 took part in the international congress held at Paris for Jews in Arab lands. It was this congress which led to the formation of the International Committee under the chairmanship of Pöher.

Some 500 Persons Picket Israel Bond Organization; Major Jewish Groups Represented

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees Union, AFL-CIO, claimed today that more than 500 members participated in a demonstration outside the offices of the Israel Bond Organization between noon and 2 p.m. Today was the 17th day of the strike against the Bond Organization by its 500 employees across the country. A spokesman for Local 1707 said employees of Farband, which is not a member of the union, joined the picket line of workers of the Bond Organization and nine other major Jewish groups. The demonstrators chanted "2, 4, 6, 8, Bernstein won't negotiate," referring to Leo Bernstein, executive vice-president of Israel Bonds. A spokesman for him said picketing by unhappy employees was "perfectly normal" but he suggested that the figure of more than 500 demonstrators was exaggerated. Bernstein was personally criticized by Dick Morton, executive director of Local 1707, and Erik Strong, union spokesman.

Morton said Bernstein was engaged in a "calculated plan to cripple the union" and was "derelict in his duty to conduct a continuous and vigorous (fundraising) campaign." He added: "As a former union official himself, Mr. Bernstein should know that his efforts to emasculate the union by demanding curtailment of the bargaining unit and impairment of the union shop will only strengthen the workers' determination to defend their union." Strong said: "Bernstein's out to bust the union. He wants to negotiate people out of the bargaining unit, out of the union shop. He should be happy to let them have the best possible arrangement. He could have settled the whole thing 1-2-3. He could have given them (the workers) a handsome raise and still been in the chips." The spokesman for Bernstein said: "The security of the union is not involved. There is and will be a union shop within the organization." He said the union's charges "mask its inordinately excessive money demands," claiming that agreeing to those demands would cost Israel Bonds \$7 1/2 million over the next two years.

Mrs. Meir Threatens To Resign If Leaks Continue To Press; Threat Leaked To Press

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--A threat made recently by Premier Golda Meir at a closed meeting that she would resign if high-level government discussions continue to be leaked to the press was promptly leaked to the press. According to an article in Maariv, Mrs. Meir told the meeting, "I will have to resign if this continues. It is impossible to work in this way. I cannot be in such a government." Proposals to prevent leaks, according to the report leaked to the press, included introduction of shadowing newsmen and ministers, increased censorship in newspapers and security watches.

Israel's First Commercial Jetliners Displayed At International Air Show

PARIS, May 27 (JTA)--President Georges Pompidou of France visited the Israeli pavilion today after he officially opened the International Air Show at Le Bourget Airport. The French leader was greeted by Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben Nathan and Alfred Schwimmer, director general of Israel Aircraft Industries. On public display abroad for the first time were Israel's first home-built commercial jets, the "Jet Commander," an executive plane and the "Arava." The latter is a short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) plane adaptable for either passenger or cargo service. M. Pompidou said, "I see that you manufacture planes. This is good." But pleading weariness after a strenuous day visiting exhibits, he declined an invitation by Ben Nathan to inspect the Israeli jets more closely. The two planes will participate in a "fly-past" at the Air Show on Saturday. Last night Israel's aircraft industry was honored at a reception held in Ambassador Ben Nathan's residence. It was attended by officials of the French Office of Aeronautical Material Exports and several senior generals of France's Air Force.

PEARL Urges Legislature To Reject Additional Aid To Non-Public Schools

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL) has called on the State Legislature to reject proposals for "an additional give-away of \$33 million to non-public schools," PEARL, a coalition of 30 civic, religious and educational groups, charged that Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and the Republican legislative leaders "have again shown their contempt to the democratic process" by proposing a parochial bill "that is to be rammed through the legislature without exposure of its terms."

2,000 Public School, Yeshiva Students Leave Classes To Hold Strike For Soviet Jewry

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--More than 2,000 high school, college and yeshiva students left their classrooms today to participate in a student strike for Soviet Jewry. The strike, called to protest the treatment of Soviet Jews and the current and upcoming trials, culminated in a rally at the Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza near the United Nations Headquarters. The students waved placards calling for the right of Jews to emigrate, raised clenched fists, and chanted, "Freedom Now." Earlier, leaders of the ad hoc committee, Student Strike for Soviet Jewry, which sponsored the strike and which included the Jewish High School Student Alliance, the New York Union of Jewish Students, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the American Conference on Soviet Jewry and the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, received greetings of solidarity from Mayor John V. Lindsay, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Conservative Senator James L. Buckley. During the rally, Rabbi Steven Riskin, spiritual leader of the Lincoln Square Synagogue, declared that "It is 25 years since six million Jews were killed and the world was silent. Once again, the world is silent." Rabbi Riskin stated that the United States government had been asked to allow the Voice of America to begin beaming Yiddish language programs into the Soviet Union "and we have only gotten silence."

In his message to the strike leaders, Rockefeller stated that the "demonstrations for Soviet Jewry are registering a deep humanitarian concern. By demonstrating this concern, and focusing public attention on the plight of Jews in Russia, you are demonstrating a compassion for mankind with which all Americans can sympathize." Lindsay, in his message, noted that "The primary issue is the right of the Jew of the Soviet Union to live as Jews and to emigrate to Israel and other countries. But in the larger sense, the issue is universal and is concerned with the dignity of man and his right to freedom and justice under any system of government." Buckley stated that he "commends individuals and groups in New York taking a stand on this issue, and peacefully and constructively calling attention to what can and should be done to help Jews and other religious minorities subject to persecution in the Soviet Union." Many of the students participating in the strike were doing so with their principals' "blessings" who cancelled classes in deference to their wishes, while others were "playing hooky." Following the rally, students were scheduled to march to the Soviet Mission.

German-Jewish Relations: Partnership But No Symbiosis After Auschwitz

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--"A Jewish renaissance in Germany is not possible, but those Jews living and working there have our respect and friendship," historian Kurt R. Grossman said last night in a reassessment of German-Jewish relations presented at the Theodor Herzl Institute. "Our relationship towards the German people should be that of equal partners," he said "since the German-Jewish symbiosis after Auschwitz has come to an end." But Grossman warned that "We should not forgive and not forget." He explained: "We Jews should not live outside of the history of our own people... In this process of moral and legal restitution we must strive for justice. We, as the living witnesses of the most tragic period, have to convey to the next generation, as a wholesome lesson, our experiences, and strive with all we have in us for regaining the moral laws lost in tears, blood, pain and uncounted corpses." Grossman, a native of Berlin who was 74 on May 21, added that he hoped West German Chancellor Willy Brandt succeeded in creating "the other Germany," for which "many of us have fought so fervently since we entered the political stage." Grossman is a consultant to the Jewish Agency.

B'nai B'rith Opens \$1 Million Fund Drive In \$7.5 Million Goal For Youth Services

WASHINGTON, May 27 (JTA)--One million dollars. That's the goal of a special B'nai B'rith fund drive to honor Dr. William A. Wexler as he winds up his sixth and final year as president, it was announced here by the B'nai B'rith Youth Services Appeal. The purpose of the fund is to sustain expansion in B'nai B'rith youth programs that took place during Dr. Wexler's tenure. Contributions will help overcome fund raising difficulties created by the current economic recession, and will play a major role in achieving B'nai B'rith's 1971 goal of \$7.5 million for youth services. The fund campaign is a companion effort to a drive now underway to enroll 10,000 new B'nai B'rith members as a tribute to the outgoing president. Both drives culminate at B'nai B'rith's triennial convention this October in Philadelphia. The "Dr. William A. Wexler Million Dollar Fund for Jewish Youth" grew out of a spontaneous proposal by Billy B. Goldberg of Houston at a recent meeting of B'nai B'rith's Board of Governors. It seeks 200 donors, each making a \$5,000 contribution. "The fund takes on particular significance in light of the rapidly increasing costs of providing effective Hillel programs on the campus, and B'nai B'rith Youth Organization and Vocational Service activities in the community," said Goldberg, the national chairman of the campaign.

Solender Says Philanthropic Institutions Must Be Open To Change, Innovations

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA)--Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, advised Westchester Jewish Community Services leaders that "if private philanthropic institutions are to fulfill their opportunities, we must be determined, innovative, open to change." Addressing the group's annual meeting, he declared: "We must abandon sacred cows, have a readiness to demonstrate vigorously and graphically that we do represent the best in volitional effort." Solender added: "The changes in this generation have been cataclysmic, demanding profound professionalism and redefinition of private voluntary philanthropy." He recommended that philanthropies ask themselves if they "have the same relevancy as in the past."

Lack Of Vacancies In Israel's Medical Schools; Latin American Students Turned Away

JERUSALEM, May 27 (JTA)--A Jewish Agency official said that Jewish medical students from Latin American countries applying for admission to Israeli medical schools were being turned away because of a shortage of vacancies. According to Yehuda Dominitz, deputy director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, there was a heavy demand for enrollment from Jewish students in Venezuela and Colombia. Israel has three medical schools, one each attached to the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University and the University of Haifa.

