

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Terrorists Threaten To Kidnap More Israeli Diplomats

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA)--The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has threatened to kidnap Israeli diplomats and Israeli officials are taking the threats seriously, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from authoritative sources. The kidnap threats by the extremist Palestinian terrorist group apparently grew out of the kidnap-murder two weeks ago of Ephraim Elrom, the Israeli Consul General in Istanbul, by Turkish terrorists. That crime has not been solved yet and the PFLP apparently believes that it has good chances of success and runs small risks in a similar exploit, the sources said. The PFLP would be expected to demand the release of terrorists imprisoned by Israel as ransom for any kidnaped Israeli, according to the sources. The JTA learned meanwhile that the Turkish kidnapers of Elrom had offered to release him to Israeli agents without ransom but may have been frightened off before the release was affected. According to JTA's informant, the Israelis were instructed to wait in a car at a certain time and place in Istanbul on May 22, the day before Elrom's bullet-riddled body was found. They were told to give a pre-arranged signal with their headlights. The JTA was told that the Israelis followed instructions but the kidnapers never showed up. They were believed to have been frightened off by the heavy Turkish police patrols in the area where Elrom's transfer was to have taken place.

(According to reports from Istanbul today, two Turkish youths believed to be members of the gang that murdered Elrom have been surrounded by police and an angry mob after kidnaping the 19-year-old daughter of a Turkish Army major yesterday.) Israeli authorities believe the Palestinian terrorists may have decided to resort to kidnaping because they think it will be more effective than past actions such as aerial hijackings. Other sources informed the JTA that it was definitely established that the kidnap-killers of Elrom were trained in Arab guerrilla camps. The sources said Turkish authorities protested to the Arab governments but were told in effect that those governments knew nothing about the charge. It was also learned here that the gun with which Elrom was shot three times was of East European manufacture though not from the Soviet Union. The sources defended the Turkish authorities' refusal to negotiate with Elrom's abductors. They noted that "any surrender to terrorists ultimately harms democracy." (Reports from Ankara today said that the murder of Elrom may result in nine hangings and possibly more if Turkish police prove that the so-called Turkish Peoples Liberation Army was indeed responsible. According to Eric Marsdan of the Sunday Times of London, Elrom's kidnap-murder has sparked a wave of anti-Arab feelings in Turkey. He said that many young Turkish revolutionaries spend months across the Syrian border learning guerrilla tactics from Palestinian terrorists.)

## Mrs. Shpilberg Confirms Ruth Is Ill; Zand Tells Caller His Health 'Not So Good'

LOS ANGELES, May 31 (JTA)--In a telephone conversation with Margarita Shpilberg in Riga, wife of Arkady Shpilberg who was sentenced last Thursday by a Riga court to three years in prison, it was confirmed Saturday night that Ruth Aleksandrovich is in extremely poor health suffering from asthma and a kidney ailment. The call, conducted by Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman of the California Students for Soviet Jewry, lasted more than 10 minutes. Mrs. Shpilberg confirmed reports that the time spent by Miss Aleksandrovich in prison since last Oct. would be deducted from the one year sentence handed down by the same court last week. The two other Jewish defendants sentenced were Mikhail Shpeshelovich for two years, and Boris Maftsier for one year. The seven months Maftsier spent in prison prior to his trial is also expected to be deducted from his sentence. During her telephone conversation, Mrs. Shpilberg said, "We want to go to Israel. All the defendants were innocent and now one of them suffers from poor health." When asked if she had anything to tell the world she replied, "Let us go home."

Minutes after that call, radio station KABC, an American Broadcasting Company affiliate, placed a telephone call to Prof. Michael Zand, in Moscow. The call placed by newscaster Ray Briem and also organized by the student group was cut short after Moscow operators apparently felt that the call had become too political. Briem had asked Dr. Zand two innocuous questions and then asked whether he had received an exit visa in recent days. At that point the ABC broadcaster could no longer hear Dr. Zand. The operator in Moscow stated, "Zand could not hear California. He refused to speak on such a poor line. And he left the house for a walk." Before the call was put on the air, Yaroslavsky asked Dr. Zand how his health was. Dr. Zand replied: "Not bad, but not so good either." Yaroslavsky called the disconnection intentional, ridiculous and fraudulent.

## Soviet Jewish Poet, Meningitis Victim, Arrives in Israel; 'Only A Miracle Can Save Him'

TEL AVIV, May 31 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar and poet Avraham Shlonsky were among those who wished Boris Gaponov well this weekend after the Soviet Jewish poet arrived here last Friday in critical condition. The 37-year-old Gaponov, a victim of meningitis who is being treated at Tel Hashomer Hospital, cannot speak, "but his eyes said everything," Shlonsky reported. Shazar sent a cable to Gaponov and his mother, who flew here with Jews from Riga, Kovno, Leningrad, Tashkent and Vilna--among them Jacob Nossik, a shochet from Samarkand who held on tightly to a Torah scroll he brought with him. Gaponov, who arrived here from Leningrad by way of Vienna, taught himself Hebrew in secret in the Georgian Republic and went on to win Israel's prestigious Tchernichovsky award for Hebrew literature for his 1969 translation of "The Man In The Tiger's Skin," a 1,669-stanza 12th century epic poem. He then applied for permission to go to Israel but was turned down until he developed meningitis, according to his mother. He was operated on in Leningrad before leaving. The poet's mother said the Russian police had charged him with possession of illegal writings, but had never interrogated him. When two tourists wanted to visit him, she said, the authorities warned him not to let them come over,

and instead had the trio meet in a room selected by the police. All of Gaponov's manuscripts were confiscated before he left the Soviet Union, she added. Now she maintains a round-the-clock vigil at her ailing son's bedside, and says "Only a miracle can save him."

### Mrs. Meir: Nothing New In Moscow-Cairo Pact; Analysts: Moscow Tightens Grip On Egypt

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA)--Authoritative political analysts here differed with the interpretation offered by Premier Golda Meir of the new 15-year Soviet-Egyptian friendship and cooperation treaty announced in Cairo by Presidents Nikolai Podgorny and Anwar Sadat last week. They take the view that the pact is "definitely a Soviet success, the first time Russia has taken on a commitment to provide Egypt with the means for offensive action, thereby strengthening Egyptian circles who hope for a military solution" of the Middle East conflict. Mrs. Meir, in Stockholm yesterday after attending the Socialist International conference in Helsinki, dismissed the treaty as "nothing new" and stated "It is our belief that the Soviet Union is not encouraging Egypt to go into a new war." According to Mrs. Meir, Soviet aid to Egypt is hardly a new development. She observed that the most important points of the agreement "seem to be that the Soviet Union will continue to train Egyptian military personnel and provide them with new arms and there will be consultations. But," she added, "this is nothing which is not already happening. The only reason (for the pact) is that there was evidently uncertainty on the Soviet side whether the relationship was going to remain or if there would be drastic changes" following Sadat's ouster of pro-Moscow elements in the Egyptian political hierarchy.

But most Israeli analysts see the pact as a successful move by Moscow to draw Egypt more tightly into the Soviet orbit. According to these circles, the treaty means that "Egypt will support Russia in all her foreign policy interests and will not conclude any bilateral agreement with Communist China or the United States." They furthermore consider the treaty to be "of a new type--an attempt to instill various forms of Soviet-Egyptian cooperation" and predicted an increase in Egyptian political activity in the form of threats based on a desire for a military solution. One highly respected expert on both Soviet and Middle Eastern affairs, Prof. Walter Z. Laqueur, said in an interview here yesterday that the Russians will now try to replace Sadat with the very pro-Moscow Egyptians he recently purged. Dr. Moshe Sneh, head of the anti-Moscow Maki Communist faction, thought the new pact reflected Kremlin fears that its investment in Egypt was endangered by the recent political events in Cairo. Acting Premier Yigal Alon said in a radio interview Saturday that the pact represented a diplomatic victory of the first magnitude for the Soviet Union and predicted--in disagreement with Mrs. Meir--that it would strengthen a hard line approach to Israel on the part of Sadat. He added that the new development would become an important bargaining point in the Big Four negotiations and in the United Nations.

Allon thought that President Sadat also realized a greater success than he expected because his regime has been firmly entrenched and he is now fully and publicly recognized by the Soviet Union as Egypt's sole leader. Alon predicted that Cairo would strengthen its efforts to persuade the United States to exert pressure on Israel for further concessions and warned that if the U.S. gives in it would be a sign of weakness in Washington. He added that the new treaty gave "added validity to Israel's request that the supply of desired armaments (from the U.S.) for deterrent purposes be continued without interruption." The JTA was told by reliable sources today that "If the Americans are indeed dragging their feet about meeting our new arms requests, they will now have second thoughts." The sources pointed out, however, that so far, the U.S. has not refused any Israeli requests for more arms aid and there have been no indications of pressure, although Washington has not yet responded to the latest requests. The sources added that in future arms contracts with the U.S. Israel would insist on longer term commitments than has been the custom up to now.

### Predict Peace In Israel Will Unleash Revolution Led By Youth

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA)--The foreign editor of Look Magazine predicted today that Israel will find itself beset with a multitude of internal problems once peace comes to the Middle East. According to J. Robert Moskin, if peace is achieved, "pent-up problems, kicked under the rug for so long, will burst through like bombs." The outbreak, he said, will be led by youthful Israelis of both sexes who now are required to spend 36 months in the army between 18 and 21. For them, Moskin explained, the war in which the tiny nation finds itself involved, is not thousands of miles away. "The soldiers hitchhike home for weekends, college students go when their units are called up, regardless of studies or exams, and their older fathers and brothers do reserve duty, often a month a year." This is a "special world--the central experience" for the youth of Israel, the editor claimed. "There is no Canada to cop out to. They stay. They take it and hate the pressure and try to shape their lives around it." In a recent trip to Israel, Moskin reported he received a variety of answers when he asked what will happen when peace comes and the borders are secured. They ranged from "Whatever happens, it will be better than things are now; I can't wait"--to predictions of a civil war.

Prof. Milton Rosenbaum, head of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Social Work told Moskin: "If this country were not at war, there would be great student unrest." According to Moskin, "in a strange way, the 'ghetto mentality' of the older generations has been passed on to this generation. Its Israel is in many respects a closed (though certainly a democratic) society, speaking a language no one else speaks, cut off from its Arab neighbors, tucked into a corner of the Mediterranean too far to make travel to Europe easy." The best of these young people, Moskin reported, "are serious, bright, but somehow they disappoint. One feels a paucity of new ideas, reaching out, even of curiosity. They are determined that Israel shall survive, but they have no sense of sharing power or being able to move events. They are scarred by two decades of war." Moskin reported that Dr. Louis Miller, Israel's Chief National Psychiatrist told him: "Peace has its victories no less renowned than war. There are issues in peace that need to be conquered. Maybe we'll now have more time to be concerned with Jews in Russia. Maybe we'll have more time to relate to ourselves. Our history begins when the war ends."

### 12 Soviet Jewish Mothers Ask Authorities To Let Children Go To Israel

LONDON, May 31 (JTA)--Twelve Soviet Jewish mothers have reportedly petitioned the Soviet authorities

to let their children go to Israel even though they may have to stay behind. The mothers reportedly explained that they felt their children would get a better Jewish education in Israel than they would in the USSR. Meanwhile, 174 Russian Jews have written to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Russian Parliament and Prosecutor General Roman A. Rudenko to protest the trials of Jews in Leningrad and Riga and the planned trial in Kishinev. Information on the March 25 letter reached here after details were smuggled out by a tourist. The writers asserted that the trials have "the aim of committing one more reprisal against Jews who wish to live in Israel and of frightening those who are trying to achieve departure for Israel." The protest concluded with an "appeal to you to do everything possible to prevent a judicial reprisal against innocent people."

### Public Schools Urged To Step Up Jewish Studies As Part Of Ethnic Studies Program

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA)--Key figures in the city's public school system are urging a step-up in ethnic studies--including Jewish studies--in the general curriculum. At a recent symposium on "Cultural Pluralism in the American School of Tomorrow," a plea for such a step-up was made by, among others, Dr. Seymour P. Lachman, chairman of the Elementary and Secondary Division of the Commission on Jewish Studies of the American Association for Jewish Education. Dr. Lachman, newly elected vice-president of the city's Board of Education, told 100 social studies chairmen: "I do not believe that any of us in this room want any large ethnic group remaining in America to lose its authenticity in the mixing bowl of American life... (Each and every American can be equally proud of his own internal group as he is proud of his external nation. The most loyal American, in my mind, is a man with multiple loyalties." As an example of the school system's failure in the ethnic area, Dr. Lachman charged that textbooks were "judenrein--empty of the Jewish experience and contribution to the world."

He continued: "The Judaism that I know, the Judaism that I live, is not only a religion. It is more-- it is a culture, a people, music, dance, literature, philosophy, an entire way of life." More authenticity in the public school curriculum was also recommended by Dr. Harvey B. Scribner, chancellor of the city school system. "The whole myth of the American melting pot has done more damage than anyone could have anticipated," he declared. "This is 'a nation of nations,' but we have contradicted its spirit of diversity, which is the greatest strength we have in America." Dr. Scribner called for a rejection of "the textbook route," and said it would be "an important day when we can announce all of these ethnic studies in our curriculum." Isaac Toubin, executive vice-president of the AAJE, said it was not the organization's aim to encourage the "balkanization of public education," but to "help the educational community move from an era of ethnic and cultural neglect to a time of pluralistic concern." Ethnic-study pleas were also made by black, Chinese, Italian and Puerto Rican representatives. The AAJE plans to hold additional meetings on the subject.

### Eban: Interim Accord On Canal Is Last Chance To Save Waterway From Oblivion

JERUSALEM, May 31 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban warned yesterday that an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal represented Egypt's last chance to save the historic waterway from oblivion and regain the revenues so important to Egypt's economy. Eban's remarks were taped on an interview broadcast Sunday after he left on an eight-nation African tour. He said Israel is still waiting for Egypt's reply to its latest proposals which were conveyed to Cairo by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco on May 8. Sisco visited Cairo a second time after he and Secretary of State William P. Rogers conferred with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem on May 6-7. Eban said the Israeli proposals were its final ones. He said he saw no reason why his government should offer further concessions to Cairo for an interim agreement. According to Eban "The entire balance of concessions so far is one of concessions by Israel. Egypt is not being asked to give up anything--neither the cease-fire line nor anything else that is under her control."

Eban said he regarded an interim agreement per se as "far more important than the canal issue itself." He said an interim agreement would be "a test case, an experimental station for the very feasibility of peace." He warned that if the canal were to be reopened and subsequently closed again because of tensions in the region, "the world of navigation, economics and commerce would decide to forget the very existence of the canal." He predicted that "no nation would be prepared to invest--insofar as its oil and shipping plans are concerned--in an adventure that blows up every few years. The whole world is getting used to the absence of the canal." Eban ruled out Israel's acceptance of United Nations guarantees in return for further concessions. "The UN cannot guarantee anything, for it has no power," he said. "The UN is a platform, a forum for discussion and debate, not an instrument of security."

### 7761 Americans, 43 Percent Increase Over Last Year, To Leave For Israel This Summer

NEW YORK, May 31 (JTA)--An increase of over 43 percent in the number of Americans leaving for Israel this summer to participate in work-study programs sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel brings the record breaking number for this year up to 7761 individuals, as against 5421 last year. They will leave during the two month period, June 15 to August 15, according to Isadore Hamlin, executive director of the Jewish Agency-American Section, to participate in 72 Jewish Agency projects in Israel. Of this number, 5686 are enrolled in summer work-tour projects and 1385 are enrolled in programs of from six months to one year duration. The great number of the participants in the Jewish Agency programs are high school and college youth, numbering 7071. The 690 participating adults are for the most part Jewish educators and communal workers. It is estimated that another 3000 American youths will be in Israel on their own, or on tours sponsored by other major American Jewish organizations, and American and Israel educational institutions. "The increased registration of Americans in Jewish Agency programs in Israel," Hamlin said, "is undoubtedly a reflection of the ever-growing interest in Israel and, in particular, of American Jewish youth seeking to have a personal experience there." Continuing, Hamlin observed: "As was the case last year, we had to halt registration for a number of the programs that involve kibbutz living, if not for the entire summer, at least for a few weeks. This is a reflection of the idealism of the American youngsters registering for these summer work-tour programs."

