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Kishinev Trial Due To Start June 21; Nine Leningrad Prisoners Appeal Sentence

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA)--The trial in Kishinev of nine Jews linked by the Russian authorities to the alleged June, 1970, skyjacking attempt will begin June 21, reliable Jewish sources disclosed here today. The trial was supposed to have started May 26, but was postponed without explanation. The Jewish sources also reported that the nine Jews convicted in the second Leningrad trial last month appealed their sentences May 27, with their attorneys moving to quash the treason charges against them. Meanwhile, 35-year-old Russian Jewish librarian Roiza Palatnik, who was arrested for anti-Soviet activities last December and subsequently went on a hunger strike to obtain a Yiddish interrogator, will go on trial around the middle of this month, the sources said.

The Jewish informants also reported that eight Kiev Jews tried to submit an anti-trial article to the Soviet newspapers Pravda and Izvestia. They were identified as Israel Kleiner, Edward Davidovich, Anatoly Feldman, Israel Slobodsky, Boris Krasny, Igor Rais, Mark Barboi and a person with the surname Oretsky. Kleiner was said to have been told by the KGB (secret police) that his act had cost him his recently approved exit visa. Meanwhile, it was reported, the Sverdlovsk authorities ended on May 23 their interrogation of Valeri Kukul, a Jew accused of anti-Soviet slander. Jewish sources say he and his friends publicized anti-trial petitions.

Scott, In Apparent Shift In Emphasis, Views Rogers Plan As Step In Mideast Peace

WASHINGTON, June 1 (JTA)--Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, believes the Nixon administration is on the right track in its pursuit of a peace settlement in the Middle East. In remarks prepared for delivery at commencement exercises at Dropsie University in Philadelphia tomorrow, the Republican Senate Minority Leader assures Israel of continued U.S. military and economic aid. But in an apparent shift in emphasis from previous statements, the Senator seems to be endorsing the Rogers Plan, which, he stresses, is administration policy. He refers to Secretary of State William P. Rogers' closed meeting in April with 67 Senators of both parties, a meeting which, he recalls, was requested by Senators Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington; Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican; and Abraham A. Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat and himself to clarify American Mideast policy. At that meeting, Scott states in his Dropsie speech, Rogers "gave us all a clear cut, candid view that dispelled much of the misunderstanding and controversy that had arisen about the administration's Middle East policy." Continuing, Scott declares: "I think it will be useful for me to mention some of the cardinal points which lie behind the efforts he (Rogers) has been making to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement. Let me add that though this has become known as the Rogers Plan, it is the policy of the administration ably spearheaded by the Secretary of State." One of the cardinal points Scott attributes to Rogers' policy is that America's goal is a "real peace" that must incorporate effective security arrangements and international guarantees.

Scott, who in the past has been strongly critical of international guarantees as a substitute for a real peace settlement, declares the U.S. was not advocating that Israel commit itself to withdrawal prior to a peace treaty or to commit itself to withdrawal prior to an agreement on security arrangements relating to Sharm el-Sheikh and the border zones. Scott feels certain that the parties to the conflict could reach such agreements and maintains that direct negotiations would have to be held at some stage in the process. Scott emphasizes in his prepared remarks that only Resolution 242 of the Security Council can contribute the proper framework for a peace settlement. He states the U.S. considers that "no just and lasting peace can rest on major transfers of territory." The latter remark appears to be a transposition of Rogers' assertion that the U.S. favored only minor boundary adjustments in a final peace settlement. Scott observes that Rogers' recent visit to the Middle East had "broad significance" for the quest for peace. He notes that the Rogers trip illustrated America's continued involvement and interest in a Mideast peace settlement and sought to urge both sides "to take as positive a position as possible." "I heartily subscribe to that philosophy which says that one gains hope most by offering some to the other fellow," Scott contends. "The process of testing intentions begins with such a test of hope and this is how I understand the proposition to reopen the Suez Canal." Scott maintains that an interim settlement on Suez would further the movement toward a broader peace settlement.

Podell Confirms 12 Soviet Jewish Mothers Ask Authorities To Let Their Children Go

PARIS, June 1 (JTA)--Bertram Podell, New York Democratic Congressman confirmed here today that 12 Jewish mothers in the Soviet Union had petitioned Prime Minister Alexsei Kosygin to permit their children to emigrate to Israel. This was reported yesterday by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Podell, returning from the Soviet Union, added that the petitioners wrote they would remain in Russia if need be, to obtain the release of their children, a total of 15 and ranging in ages from eight months to 19 years. Podell continued: "Any parent, indeed, any human being, would appreciate this kind of sacrifice." He also stated that "Not a single Jew would remain in the Soviet Union if the gates were open to him to leave." Podell promised to make public some documents upon his return to Washington. He said that he had been followed wherever he went during his six-day stay in the USSR, and that he had reason to believe that his telephone had been tapped.

Report That Mrs. Meir Met Secretly With Soviet Officials Emphatically Denied

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA)--The Prime Minister's office emphatically denied today a press report that Premier Golda Meir met secretly with two Soviet officials at a remote hunting lodge in Finnish Lapland over the week-end. The report first appeared yesterday in the Stockholm newspaper Dagens

Nyheter. It said Mrs. Meir, who is currently visiting Scandinavian countries, left Stockholm by air Saturday for Rovaniemi, Lapland. Finnish sources confirmed that she was driven from the airport to the countryside but no reason was given for the trip, her second to Finland in a week. Mrs. Meir was in Helsinki last week to address the conference of the Socialist International and then went to Sweden. Today she is visiting Oslo, Norway. Her office here confirmed that she visited Finnish Lapland but said it was only for a rest.

Report Alexandria Full Of Russian Submarines, Warships, Merchant Vessels

HAIFA, June 1 (JTA)--A retired French admiral who arrived here yesterday aboard a cruise ship that had just called at Alexandria reported that Egyptian authorities are so nervous over possible attacks by Israeli frogmen that they set off depth charges in the harbor every 10 minutes. According to Admiral Georges Abanier, who served as Chief of Staff of the French Navy until his retirement in 1968, Alexandria "is full of Russian warships, submarines and merchant vessels." Two retired admirals and six retired French generals were aboard the French cruise liner Jean Mermoz. They are leading a group of 400 tourists, half of them Legion of Honor members, who are retracing "Napoleon's footsteps." The tour took them to Malta and Egypt before landing in Israel. The tourists reported that they were appalled by the poverty they saw during their three-day visit to Egypt. They said that on the way to Cairo and Luxor they were kept under strict supervision and were subjected to anti-Israel propaganda by their guides. They noted the protective brick walls in front of buildings in Cairo, a precaution against bombings. But their general impression was that the Egyptian people do not want another war with Israel. They said that a half dozen Jewish tourists in the group were permitted ashore in Egypt without difficulties. "The Egyptians knew we were going to Israel," the visitors said.

\$500 Million To Be Invested In Housing For Poor And Immigrant Families

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA)--The Housing Ministry announced today that it will invest nearly \$500 million over the next five years to provide adequate housing for families living in overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory quarters. The Ministry also disclosed that 13,000 apartments intended for new immigrants during the next five years will be turned over instead to large families of limited means. The moves were seen as a direct response to the growing clamor by slum dwellers for improved living conditions, a problem dramatized in recent months by the activities of the self-styled Black Panthers, youths of North African and Asian origin living in the Jerusalem slums. According to the Ministry's plan, the large new flats will go to large families while immigrant families with only two or three members will be housed in the flats vacated by the larger families. The Ministry plans to renovate the old apartments before occupancy by the new immigrants. The Ministry will invest \$437.5 million in the project beginning next April. About 25,000 families are expected to receive apartments of 80-90 square meters at a monthly rent of \$23. Another 8,000 families will be helped to add one or two rooms to their existing flats and 5,000 families will receive 40-year loans of \$7,000-\$8,750 at eight percent interest to acquire new housing. In addition, 5,000 families will have their present flats extensively refurbished.

Gaponov, Kerler Admitted To Writers Association; Gaponov's Mother With Him Around Clock

TEL AVIV, June 1 (JTA)--Boris Gaponov, the prize-winning Soviet Jewish poet and translator who has been hospitalized since he arrived in Israel last Friday, was admitted today to membership in the Israeli Writers Association. Two officials of the association visited him at his bedside at Tel Hashomer Hospital to bring him the news. Also admitted to the association today was the Soviet Jewish poet Joseph Kerler. Gaponov, 37, is suffering from meningitis and is in critical condition. Israeli physicians have cabled the Leningrad hospital where he underwent surgery recently for his case history. The Tel Hashomer Hospital issued no progress report today. But his doctors have cut visits to him to a bare minimum. His mother is permitted to remain with him day and night.

Demonstrators Confront Russian Tourists; Demand Release Of Jewish Prisoners

LONDON, June 1 (JTA)--Jewish demonstrators confronted today about 300 Russian tourists near the grave of Karl Marx in Highgate Cemetery here. They carried placards demanding "Free all Jewish prisoners" and "Stop anti-Semitism in Russia." The tourists, apparently forewarned by the Soviet Embassy, refused to accept leaflets. Many of them hid their faces from press photographers but others took photographs of the demonstration. There were no incidents. Police kept the demonstrators outside the cemetery gate and warned them not to try to approach the tomb of the founding father of modern Communism. But some of the demonstrators, using bull horns, hailed the tourists in Russian. They shouted, "Karl Marx was a Jew. Don't you think Jews in Russia should be allowed to live as they want and follow their religion?" The demonstration was organized by the Universities Committee for Soviet Jewry and the Committee of 35, made up of Jewish housewives who have been maintaining a vigil at the Soviet Embassy to protest the detention and trials of Jewish women in the USSR.

Shemtov Reports There Are Some 12,000 Addicts In Israel

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA)--Health Minister Victor Shemtov told the Knesset yesterday that the number of narcotics addicts in Israel was "liberally" estimated at 12,000. Most of them, he stressed, smoke relatively harmless hashish. Responding to a question from MK Shlomo Lorincz of Agudath Israel, Shemtov denied reports that El-Fatah, the largest of the Palestinian organizations, was introducing hashish into Israel to drug the populace and make it more susceptible to conquest.

Dr. Warhaftig Says Holy Places In Jerusalem Accessible To All Faiths

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA)--Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, Minister for Religious Affairs, has rejected Arab-inspired criticism at the United Nations of Israel's stewardship of the Holy Places in East Jerusalem. The leader of the National Religious Party also strongly defended the archaeological excavations around the Wailing Wall which Orthodox elements had once bitterly opposed. Speaking yesterday in the Knesset, Dr. Warhaftig said access to the Holy Places of all faiths has never been as free and secure as it is since Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem in 1967.

Professors Urged To Endorse Statement That Zionism Is A National Liberation Movement

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA)--Jewish college professors are being asked by Prof. Milton R. Konvitz of Cornell University to endorse a one-paragraph affirmation of "Zionism as a movement of Jewish liberation and cultural renaissance" and repudiation as "manifestations of anti-Semitism" any "attacks upon Zionism which attempt to separate it from authentic Jewishness." The statement also favors the strengthening of Israel. "as the embodiment of the prophetic vision of justice and peace" and the preservation of "the identity of the Jewish people" through Jewish education. Konvitz and the other 12 formulators of the statement declared that "the time has come to condemn forthrightly efforts to discredit the Jewish people and the State of Israel through blatant anti-Zionist propaganda" and to "reject the insidious attempts to separate the interests of the Jewish people from the State of Israel and their fellow Jews in the Soviet Union." The formulators included Salo Baron, Columbia University; Marver H. Bernstein, Princeton University; Haim Ginnott, New York University; Abraham J. Heschel, Jewish Theological Seminary; Horace Kallen, New York School for Social Research; Seymour M. Lipset, Harvard University; Albert Sabin, Board of Trustees, New York University, and president of the Weizmann Institute; Judah Shapiro, Hebrew Union College, N.Y.; and Elie Wiesel, noted author and lecturer.

Hiroshima-Auschwitz Committee Sending Good-Will Delegation To Visit Death Camp Site

TOKYO, June 1 (JTA)--The Hiroshima-Auschwitz Committee will send a good-will delegation to Poland in August to visit the site of the death camp and bring back articles connected with the Nazi holocaust for an exhibition in Japan next May, the Mainichi Daily News reported. The committee was formed to promote friendship between the survivors of Hiroshima and the survivors of Auschwitz. The good-will mission will consist of about 30 persons including 5 or 10 school children, the Mainichi Daily News said. They will leave Japan Aug. 11 and stay in Poland for five days. The mission will ask the Polish government and the Auschwitz museum to lend articles left by Jewish victims, poison gas containers used in the massacre of Jews and documentary photographs. The committee plans to hold an "Auschwitz-Hiroshima Exhibition" in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Tokyo, Osaka and six other Japanese cities. According to a committee spokesman, these articles have not previously been taken out of Poland, the newspaper reported.

Leaders Of Major Jewish Groups Assail Riga Sentences As 'Death Sentences'

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA)--Leaders of two major Jewish organizations assailed today the sentences handed down last week in Riga against four Soviet Jews. Mrs. Faye L. Schenk, president of Hadassah, appealed for clemency from the Supreme Soviet, the only body which can act to reverse the action by the Latvian Supreme Court which sentenced the Riga Four to prison terms of 1-3 years. Phil Baum, national director of the American Jewish Congress Commission on International Affairs, termed the sentences "shocking but predictable" and urged the support of everyone "to ensure to the beleaguered Soviet Jewish community at least minimal personal and civil rights." The Riga Four were charged with publishing and distributing anti-Soviet literature. Arkady Shpilberg was sentenced to 3 years, Mikhail Shepshelovich to 2 years, and Ruth Aleksandrovich and Boris Mafstier to 1 year each.

Mrs. Schenk stated that the sentences to be served in a Soviet "strict regime" prison camp, where the diet totals 900 calories a day, could "become a death sentence" for some. Miss Aleksandrovich is currently in poor health suffering from asthma and a kidney ailment. In her appeal for clemency, Mrs. Schenk stated that although the sentences "appear mild in legal terms," they are, nevertheless, "hideous when the charges are based on people's beliefs - having to do with individual conscience - and have no bearing on the security of the government." Baum, speaking at an AJCongress meeting in Los Angeles, stated that the sentences "represent the fierce determination of the Soviet authorities to root out every vestige of Jewish identity and to repress every expression of Jewish attachment. He further declared: "We are confident that these efforts will not be permitted to succeed." Baum called continued public opinion against the sentences and upcoming trials essential.

Passman Pays Tribute To Weizmann Institute; Says Israeli Scientists Play Major Role

JERUSALEM, June 1 (JTA)--Rep. Otto E. Passman, Democrat of La., chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, called upon the U.S. Congress to increase support of scientific research and paid tribute to the Weizmann Institute of Science where he was made an Honorary Fellow. Prof. Sidney Goldstein of Harvard University, a distinguished mathematician, was also made an Honorary Fellow. In accepting the honor, Passman told the audience attending the ceremonies in Rehovot that "The Institution's work is known throughout the world, not just the world of your fellow scientists, but by people of all walks of life." He emphasized the need to harness scientific research to combat and to increase the world's supply of sweet water and called for strict enforcement of anti-pollution laws and adequate funding for desalination research "in which great scientists of Israel have made much progress."

Dr. Albert B. Sabin, president of the Weizmann Institute, who presided at the ceremonies, said that during Passman's 25 years in Congress he has rendered distinguished service to the entire free world including Israel. Dr. Sabin praised Dr. Goldstein for his "outstanding contributions to the fields of applied mathematics, including aeronautical engineering." Dr. Michael Feldman, Dean of the Feinberg Graduate School, attacked radical movements for hostility to science and technology, including those in the United States: "Their superficial slogan-ridden approach implies rejection of the very important foundation upon which scientific progress has been built in the past 50 years." He called upon the world scientific community to embark upon a profound and candid discussion of "the dangers inherent in the new radical challenge to science and scientific research," and proposed that Israel's National Academy of Sciences and Humanities should take on the responsibility of initiating this discussion.

Percy Calls For Pressure Of World Opinion To Aid Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, June 1 (JTA)--Sen. Charles H. Percy expressed hope today that "all pressure of world opinion will be brought to bear on behalf of justice for Soviet Jews." The Ill. Republican said "This is not simply an internal affair of one country, it is a moral concern of men everywhere."

Attorney Assails Newspaper Accounts Of Trials In USSR As Completely Distorted

SAN FRANCISCO, June 1 (JTA)--A San Francisco attorney who was in Russia during the recent trials of Jews in Leningrad and Riga sharply criticized American newspaper accounts of the trials based on reports by Tass, the Soviet news agency. Ephraim Margolin, who specializes in criminal and constitutional law, said "I found this picture to be completely distorted on the basis of dozens of conversations with friends and relatives of those who are being tried." Margolin, a national officer of the American Jewish Congress, reported his experiences on a two week visit to the Soviet Union, during which he found himself being questioned by the secret police in Riga and threatened with deportation. He claimed that in both the Leningrad and Riga trials, the Soviets used their legal code, which states that the names of defense witnesses must be provided to the prosecution, in order to make sure that the witnesses would not appear. "In the Leningrad trial," he said, "several defense witnesses were arrested eight days before the trial started, while others were sent out of town by their employer, which is of course, the State." Margolin reported that when the witnesses returned and offered to testify at a new trial if held, they "were told not to speak of what happened under threat of being fired from their jobs." Margolin stated that "In contrast, the prosecution provided police and secret police witnesses who testified on technical matters." In Riga, where the trial of four Jews ended last Thursday and 1-3 years' sentences handed down, Isalah Averbuch, the fiancée of Ruth Aleksandrovich, one of the defendants, was arrested five days before the trial.

"He (Averbuch) was sentenced the next morning under an administrative jail procedure," Margolin reported. "He was not allowed an attorney or bail and since the penalty is only 15 days, under Soviet law no appeal is possible. In this way, Averbuch and others were prevented from attending the trial of his fiancée." Margolin said he returned from the USSR convinced of "the incredible bravery and determination of a significant number of Russian Jews to assert their culture in a search for their Jewish identity." He said he met young Jews in Moscow, Riga and Leningrad "who talked openly and freely of their desire to live as Jews in Israel, this despite the fact that their phones were bugged, their apartments under electronic surveillance and all their moves monitored by the secret police." Margolin brought back with him a copy of an open letter to Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev signed by nine Kishinev Jews, protesting the imprisonment of friends there who are awaiting trial. The letter, which included the street addresses of the signers, demanded the immediate release of the prisoners and "that we all be allowed to leave for our homeland." Nine Jews are facing trial in Kishinev, on charges stemming from the alleged Leningrad hijack plot. The trial had been scheduled to begin last Thursday but was postponed. No reason was given for the postponement.

Suppression Of Soviet Jews Condemned By Committee On Catholic-Jewish Relations

BOSTON, June 1 (JTA)--The Committee on Catholic-Jewish Relations of the Archdiocese of Boston has condemned the suppression of Jews in the Soviet Union as "an injustice that compels us to speak in the name of moral and religious principles." The group is composed of members of the Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission and other Christian leaders and representatives of the rabbinate and major Jewish agencies. It urged Soviet authorities to extend to Soviet Jews the full measure of equality they are entitled to under the Soviet Constitution; to permit them to openly practice their religion and culture; "to eradicate every vestige of anti-Semitism" and "to grant permission to those Jews who desire to do so to emigrate to Israel or to any other country and to insure the unhindered exercise of this right."

Educator Says Quebec Jews Should Support Struggle Of French Canadians

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA)--A Jewish educator and youth leader from Montreal believes that Jews in Quebec province should support the struggle of French Canadians for self determination and try to understand their legitimate grievances. According to Yaakov Gladstone, community coordinator of the Center for Russian Jewry in N.Y. and former executive director of Hataad Harishon, Jews find themselves caught in the middle of the polarization taking place between the English and French Canadians. Gladstone spoke on the topic of "French Separatists and the Canadian-Jewish Community" at the Theodor Herzl Institute here. He noted that whenever a crisis develops in any country, Jews are usually caught in the middle and get hurt badly. "The Jewish leaders in Quebec have adopted a policy of silence with regard to the Separatist Movement," he said. "This 'wait and see' attitude seems to be the answer of the majority of Quebec Jews as well." Privately, however, Jews express fear, so much so, that some of them, like other non-French Canadians, are thinking of moving out of the province. According to Gladstone, "the ideal solution would be to prepare for aliyah, but since Quebec Jews are not likely to do that, I feel that they must accept the French reality." At the same time, he said, "the Jewish community must become more democratic in its structure, tune in to the voice of its activist youth, and involve themselves actively and seriously in strengthening the national and cultural identity of the Jews."

Businessman Urges Planting Trees In Israel In Memory Of Ephraim Eilrom

DETROIT, June 1 (JTA)--Bernard Edelman, a prominent realtor in this city, has urged the planting of trees in Israel through the Jewish National Fund in memory of Ephraim Eilrom, the Israeli Consul General who was murdered on May 22 in Istanbul by Turkish terrorists. In a paid advertisement in the latest issue of the Detroit Jewish News, Edelman expressed shock and "agonizing despair" over the kidnapping and murder of the Israeli official. "He gave his life," Edelman stated in the advertisement. "I respectfully suggest that all of us respond by planting trees in Israel in his memory."

Award Given To English Translator Of Memoirs Of Mandelstam's Widow

NEW YORK, June 1 (JTA)--An English translation of "Hope Against Hope," the memoirs of the widow of Soviet Yiddish poet Osip Mandelstam, has won the ninth annual translation award of the American chapter of P.E.N. for Max Hayward, an Oxford don. The \$1,000 award, donated by the Book-of-the-Month Club, was presented to Hayward's publisher here by the international association of poets, essayists and novelists. The book by Nadezhda Mandelstam was published by Atheneum last October.