

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Thursday, June 3, 1971

No. 106

Israel Awaiting U.S. Assessment Of Egypt-Soviet Friendship Pact

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA)--Israeli leaders are waiting for Washington's assessment of the new 15 year treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in Cairo last week by President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and President Nikolai V. Podgorny of the Soviet Union. The official American view of the pact is expected to be conveyed to Jerusalem after U.S. officials complete their careful combing of the text for hidden meanings, trends and implications. It appears to some observers, however, that Israel intends to use the Egyptian-Soviet treaty to try to drive a wedge between Washington and Cairo which, up until last week, seemed on the verge of a diplomatic rapprochement. Israeli circles believe the Egyptians are busy transmitting urgent messages to the Americans, through the U.S. Charges d'Affaires in Cairo, Donald Bergus, and through other channels, to assure them that Egypt remains wholly sovereign, that its foreign policies have not been changed by the treaty and that the pact itself only formalizes an existing relationship with Moscow. Israeli circles say that if Washington accepts this line it would encourage still closer links between Cairo and Moscow and disappoint Egyptian elements which Israelis believe were "shocked" by Sadat's swift acquiescence to a treaty dictated by Moscow.

The Israeli view, which is apparently being pressed on Washington, is that the Russians "grabbed Sadat by the throat" and forced him to very nearly mortgage Egypt to them for the next 15 years in return for the weapons and training needed by the Army, now Sadat's political mainstay, with the ultimate aim of pushing Israel back to its pre-June, 1967 borders. According to the Israelis, the Egyptian-Soviet pact shatters the image, diligently cultivated by Cairo, that Sadat is a strong-willed, right-thinking moderate, eager above all to forge new ties with the U.S. and to reach an honorable peace agreement with Israel. Israel Gallili, a Minister-Without-Portfolio, claimed last night that the Cairo-Moscow pact was no mere formalization of an existing relationship, a line Premier Golda Meir seemed to take in her first reaction to the treaty from Stockholm where she was visiting last week. Gallili claimed that the treaty clause calling for Russian aid in Egyptian military exercises could serve to mask serious Soviet coordination with Egypt in actual military operations. Gallili told a Labor Party meeting at Nes Ziona that it would be an error for Israel to underestimate the significance of the new pact.

Kharkov Jew To Go On Trial June 10; Charged With Illegal Economic Activities

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA)--Aleksander Gorbach, a 35-year-old Jewish resident of Kharkov, will go on trial around June 10 in Vinnitza, the Ukraine, on charges of illegal economic activities under Article 150 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code, Jewish sources reported here today. The sources said the real reason he was being tried was that he had applied for a visa to migrate to Israel. Gorbach was one of 39 Jews, among them Prof. Mikha'il I. Zand, who were arrested in March in a demonstration in the Moscow offices of Prosecutor General Roman A. Rudenko. Like Zand he went on a hunger strike in prison.

Interfaith Group To Picket For Nixon Intervention On Behalf Of Soviet Jewish Prisoners

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA)--In direct defiance of a law which they denounced as "unconstitutional," an interfaith group of Jewish and non-Jewish clergy, including a minister and a nun, plan to picket tomorrow afternoon in front of the United States Mission to the United Nations. They will demand an American administration intervention in the series of trials of Jews currently under way in the USSR. The law, according to police officials, bans demonstrations along First Avenue at the United Nations, and includes the U.S. Mission which is opposite the world body. "We are prepared to be arrested, if necessary," declared Rabbi Steven Riskin, spiritual leader of the Lincoln Square Synagogue and a spokesman for the clergymen, "because we believe that we have both a moral obligation and constitutional right to demand, as American citizens, that our government act decisively when basic human rights are violated in the world. In 1903," Rabbi Riskin continued, "the United States government protested vigorously against the Czarist pogroms in Kishinev. Today, with anti-Semitic trials under the new Russian Czars, our government must act just as strongly." Rabbi Riskin characterized the State Department announcement issued last week on the Riga trials as "too vague." (See separate story) Part of the demands of the interfaith group is also for regular Voice of America radio broadcasts to Russian Jews in Hebrew and Yiddish. Rabbi Riskin pointed out that much smaller ethnic groups than the Jews in the USSR -- Estonians and Latvians -- receive programming in their own languages. The VOA last week rejected a Congressman's request that it include a Yiddish-language segment because it would require new transmitting facilities that would cost some \$2.5 million.

Strike By Israel Bond Organization Employees In 20th Day; Mediation Continues

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA)--The strike by 500 employees against the Israel Bond Organization entered its 20th day today with no signs of progress toward a settlement. The two sides continued to meet however under the aegis of the New York State Mediation Service. Meetings were held yesterday and last Friday. Another meeting is scheduled to be held tomorrow. A spokesman for Local 1707 of the Community and Social Agency Employees, AFL-CIO, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that many unions which purchase Israel Bonds have cancelled participation in Bond functions and have threatened to withhold further purchases until the strike is settled. A spokesman for the Bond Organization conceded that it has received communications from some unions "expressing interest in a settlement and asking for details and information" about negotiations. The spokesman told the JTA that he knew of only three union locals that indicated they would withhold Israel Bond purchases. On the other hand, he said, at least six unions, whose names he declined to identify, have made new purchases of Israel Bonds since the strike began on May 14.

The Bond Organization and the union spokesmen both referred to a May 27 letter from Emil Mazy, secretary-treasurer of the United Automobile Workers Union in Detroit, to Leo Bernstein, executive

vive-president of the Israel Bond Organization, indicating that the UAW was deeply disturbed by the lack of progress in negotiations. The letter noted that the UAW holds \$785,000 worth of Israel Bonds and purchases them because it supports Israel and has close relations with Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. The Israel Bond Organization spokesman said that receipts from Bond sales during the last two weeks of May were 50 percent higher than in the corresponding period last year. A spokesman for Local 1707 told the JTA reporter that he had letters and telegrams from more than a half dozen unions and locals threatening to withhold Bond purchases or implying that they would take such action if the strike isn't settled, and read portions of these letters during his telephone interview with the JTA. The spokesman said Bond sales functions were cancelled by the Bakery Workers Union; the Laborers International Union of North America, District Council of Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh; the Cleveland AFL-CIO; the Dade County (Fla.) AFL-CIO Council; Fruithandlers Union Local 371 in Westport, Conn. and the International Jewelry Workers Union.

The union spokesman claimed there were "many other" unions that cancelled Bond sales functions. He said "hundreds" of letters and telegrams supporting the strike were sent by various unions all over the country to Bernstein. Meanwhile, the coordinating committee of the Labor Zionist Movement expressed "deep regret" over the apparent breakdown in negotiations. It urged both parties "to meet together around the negotiating table without further delay and to negotiate in good faith without let-up until agreement is reached on a new contract." The committee, representing the United Labor Zionists-Poale Zion, Farband-Labor Zionist Order, Pioneer Women and Habonim, stated, "We cannot look upon this as an ordinary labor-management dispute since the vital interests of Israel are involved." An IBO spokesman said, following yesterday's mediation session that he was "hopeful" of a settlement but conceded that the mediation sessions so far have not gotten down to specific issues. He said "progress" was visible but only "in a vague way." The union spokesman claimed that there was "no movement" because the IBO was sticking to its "counter-demands" and was refusing to negotiate a new contract.

State Department Concerned Over Trials Of Jews In Soviet Union

WASHINGTON, June 2 (JTA)--The State Department has expressed concern with the continuing secret trials of Jews in the Soviet Union and deplored the three previous secret trials - the two in Leningrad and the one in Riga - as deprivations of fundamental human rights. Charles Bray, Department spokesman, issued a statement several days ago declaring that "there is great interest among Americans in these trials which have not been opened to any impartial forum of observers." Referring to the Riga trial which ended last Thursday in which four Jews were given 1-3 year sentences at "strict labor," Bray stated that "it would appear that the defendants were tried for actions which are not even considered a crime in most countries. We trust that the Soviet government realizes that Americans of every political persuasion and religious belief deplore the persecution of people simply for studying a foreign language, in this case, Hebrew, and for running materials off on a mimeograph machine." Bray termed these trials abhorrent for denying the Soviet Jews the right "to freely leave any country and to travel or reside abroad in any country of their choice," for the denial of an open trial, and persecution of people for their beliefs. "We deeply regret," Bray stated, "these deprivations of fundamental human rights, rights which should not be in question anywhere in the second half of the 20th century."

WIZO Supports Plea Of 12 Jewish Soviet Mothers To Let Their Children Go

TEL AVIV, June 2 (JTA)--The Women's International Zionist Organization (Wizo) has joined in support of 12 Jewish mothers in the Soviet Union who have petitioned Soviet authorities to allow their children to go to Israel even if they must remain behind. On the occasion of International Childrens Day, marked yesterday, Wizo's Executive President Raya Jagblum asked the Finnish Ambassador here to convey a message to the Soviet government. Finland handles Soviet affairs in Israel in the absence of diplomatic relations between Jerusalem and Moscow. The Finnish Ambassador, however, turned down a request to meet with a Wizo delegation. Mrs. Jagblum sent the message to him in a letter. It appeals to the Soviet government to permit 15 Jewish children and their families to emigrate to Israel "their homeland, according to the request of their mothers who are anxious about the future of their children who are brought up to hate Israel and their own people."

Measures Being Taken To Prevent Terrorist Activities On Anniversary Of Six-Day War

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA)--Israeli security forces are taking special precautionary measures to prevent Arab terrorist activities and sabotage on June 5, the fourth anniversary of the Six-Day War. The anniversary has been the occasion in past years for increased terrorist activity and agitation, although it has been declining in intensity from year to year. In past years, Israeli forces have successfully intercepted Arab gangs bent on sabotage and terror on the war anniversary. Some agitation has already been noted on the West Bank. Several dozen leaflets exhorting Palestinians to "stand firm in the face of the enemy" were found today in Nablus and Bethlehem. They were signed by the Jordanian Communist Party and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Incidents have increased meanwhile along the Jordanian frontier where Sdeh Eliyahu settlement was shelled with Katyusha rockets from Jordanian territory recently. Jordanian Army patrols were seen in the area, apparently trying to prevent the guerrillas from acting against Israel. Israeli security forces are guarding against some attempted spectacular act along the borders or in Israel proper by which the terrorists may hope to regain some of their prestige with the Arab population, shattered by last September's civil war in Jordan.

Jewish Women's Group Strengthening Program To Aid Senior Citizens

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA)--The National Council of Jewish Women announced today that it would strengthen its existing senior citizen aid programs in anticipation of Federal budget cuts that threaten the funding of the Administration on Aging. Mrs. Earl Marwin, president of the service organization, urged volunteer organizations to take up the lag between social need and legislative action.

Prayer Vigil For Soviet Jewry Siated For Washington

NEW YORK, June 2 (JTA)--Prayer vigils for Soviet Jewry will be held in several cities in the United States from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, it was announced today by Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, president of the Synagogue Council of America. Major attention will be focussed on a prayer vigil in the nation's capital, which will be attended by leading religious personalities of the Jewish, Protestant and Catholic faiths. The official call for the prayer vigil was issued by the Synagogue Council of America, in cooperation with the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. In issuing the call, Rabbi Sharfman said that it is the purpose of the vigils "to generate a mighty chorus by decent men everywhere demanding of the Soviet authorities 'stop the trials, release the prisoners.'" The vigils will also serve to tell the Soviet authorities "that we will not rest nor will we be silent while their ruthless policy of repression continues," Rabbi Sharfman stated. "It is also the purpose of these vigils to ask of our own government to raise the issue of the cultural and religious genocide taking place in the Soviet Union on a far more serious level than it has been raised thus far." Among the participants in the Washington vigil will be representatives of the National Council of Churches of Christ, the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical Affairs of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the U.S., the National Committee of Black Churchmen and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Professor of Jewish Ethics and Mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Rabbi Sharfman. In addition, a major speaker at the Washington vigil will be Rivka Aleksandrovich, who will bring a dramatic message from the Soviet Union about her daughter, Ruth.

Most Canadians Believe Mideast Peace Possible, According To Gallup Poll

MONTREAL, June 2 (JTA)--Most Canadians believe a Middle East peace is possible, but a substantial number have no opinion on the matter, according to the Gallup Poll of Canada. A new study by the organization indicates that 44 percent of the populace believes peace is possible, 30 percent does not and 26 percent cannot say. Asked what concessions, if any, Israel should make, 27 percent of those questioned said she should return most of the occupied Arab territories, retaining only Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip; 18 percent said she should return only a small portion of the territories or none at all; 16 percent said she should give back all of the captured land, and 39 percent were undecided.

Maryland's Only Kosher Poultry Processing Plant To Remain Closed Pending Hearing

BALTIMORE, June 2 (JTA)--Maryland's only kosher poultry slaughter and processing plant will remain closed pending a hearing on June 9. Pen-Mar Poultry, Inc. located in this city, was closed down last week because of what Dr. Robert J. Lee, chief of Maryland's meat and poultry inspection division, termed as "gross unsanitary operative conditions" in the plant. Dr. Lee said the products prepared were subjected to bacteria, with insect and vermin control almost completely lacking. Rabbi Leopold Fischer, the plant's ritual slaughterer and spiritual leader of Congregation Zera Israel here, denied the charges and attributed any shortcomings to the upkeep of outmoded machinery. He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "Our chickens are clean." He further stated that the 1,500 families who normally get their poultry from Pen-Mar are now being forced to import chickens from New Jersey and New York. According to Dr. Lee, state inspectors have been working closely with the Pen-Mar management since the beginning of the year in an effort to upgrade the facilities, but have been met with "extreme verbal abuse" by the staff. He further stated that "Not once have they (Pen-Mar) asked to have inspection reinstated since its suspension on May 25." By law, state inspection is required to maintain operations. Rabbi Fischer confirmed that friction exists between management and State inspectors.

301-764-6781

Eban And Cameroons President Discuss Relations Between Two Nations

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban, currently on a tour of eight African nations, had a frank talk with President Ahmadu Ahidjo of the Cameroons in the capital of that West African republic last night. According to the Israeli pool correspondent accompanying Eban, President Ahidjo suggested that Israel should not attach too much importance to the anti-Israel votes by his nation in the United Nations and at international conferences. Ahidjo said those votes were based on inter-African political considerations and were of no significance. He implied, however, that he would not be able to do much about it in the future and expressed the hope that the issue would not affect Israeli development projects in the Cameroons. Eban reportedly replied that Israel did not make its aid projects dependent on the recipient nation's politics. However, he added, Israel would not be able to tolerate a further worsening of the Cameroons' position vis-a-vis Israel in the international arena.

Mrs. Meir Accorded Enthusiastic Welcome During Helsinki Visit

LONDON, June 2 (JTA)--Finland's Jewish community, which numbers only 1,300, gave Premier Golda Meir of Israel an enthusiastic welcome when she visited Helsinki last week, according to S. Levenberg, British representative of the Jewish Agency and chairman of the World Jewish Congress' international affairs commission. Levenberg was in the Finnish capital as a Labor Zionist delegate to the conference of the Socialist International which was addressed by Mrs. Meir. He reported on his return here that the Israeli leader was one of the "centers of attraction" at the conference and at various official functions. She addressed representatives of the Jewish community in Yiddish and English at a reception in her honor. Levenberg said the Finnish press devoted a great deal of space to Mrs. Meir's visit despite Finland's "special position" vis-a-vis the Soviet Union.

West Bank Magazine To Deal With Topics Of Interest To Women

JERUSALEM, June 2 (JTA)--Women's Lib is coming to the occupied Jordanian West Bank--if only in print. A new bimonthly newspaper devoted mainly to social and educational matters of interest to women will make its first appearance near week's end. It will be called "Fataat Falastin," or "The Palestinian Woman." Two other Arab newspapers are published regularly in the West Bank. The nearly-three-year-old El Kuds ("Jerusalem"), which is vehemently anti-Israel and is also read by many Israeli Arabs, claims a circulation of 18,000. Al Bashir ("The Messenger") is published weekly.

