

JTA daily news bulletin

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

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Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Friday, June 4, 1971

No. 107

Jewish, Christian Clerics Urge U.S. To Intervene On Behalf Of Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON, June 3 (JTA)--Christian and Jewish clergymen called on President Nixon and the U.S. government today to intervene more actively with Soviet authorities on behalf of Russian Jews. The clergymen addressed about 500 persons attending a prayer vigil for Soviet Jews at a park three blocks from the White House. The vigil was organized by the Synagogue Council of America in cooperation with the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Similar rallies and vigils also took place in Chicago and New York. (See separate New York story). At the Washington vigil, the Rev. Dean Louis, of the United Presbyterian Church, urged Christians in the Soviet Union to become more concerned with the fate of their Jewish fellow citizens. He appealed to President Nixon to "use his good offices and intervene" for the release and restoration of full civil rights to Soviet Jews imprisoned or facing trial. He also asked the World Council of Churches to "raise this concern with fellow Christians in the Soviet Union."

Rev. Metz Rollins, executive director of the National Committee of Black Churchmen declared that "Nixon has been strangely silent on this issue. He should speak out." Father John F. Hotchkiss, executive director of the U.S. Bishops Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Catholic Conference, referred to fellow Christians when he said, "May they not cease to make their voices heard in increasing numbers, may they call for the liberation of their fellow men caught in this captivity." Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, president of the Synagogue Council, asked President Nixon to instruct the State Department to "promptly take vigorous measures to convey to the Soviet authorities this government's outrage at the trials in Leningrad, Riga and Kishinev." Rabbi Sharfman said the issue "has not yet been raised by our government in its contacts with the Soviet Union with the seriousness it deserves." Jews in Chicago today observed a Prayer Day for Soviet Jews proclaimed by the Chicago Board of Rabbis. They were asked by the rabbis to send messages to all responsible American and Russian officials expressing outrage at the trials of Jews in the USSR.

Interfaith Group Pickets U.S. Mission To UN To Demand Firm Aid For Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, June 3 (JTA)--Intervention by the U.S. State Department was credited with preventing the arrest of six rabbis, a Protestant minister and a Catholic nun who picketed the U.S. Mission to the United Nations today demanding that the U.S. government take a stronger stand on behalf of Soviet Jews. The rabbis, represented by the N.Y. Civil Liberties Union, appeared at Federal Court here this morning to apply for an injunction against a ban on picketing directly in front of Mission headquarters which is adjacent to the UN. They had been warned by police that they would be arrested if they violated the ban which, the police claimed, stemmed from an international treaty. The judge reserved his decision until next Tuesday. According to Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the State Department, which was named in the injunction request, rushed a message to the court saying that it did not object to the close proximity of the pickets to the Mission building and that it recognized no ban. The pickets marched for two hours this afternoon carrying placards demanding "Freedom for the Kishinev 9" and "Why Doesn't The U.S. Speak Out." A large police contingent was present but did not interfere with the pickets.

According to Richter, a representative of Ambassador George Bush, the U.S. representative to the UN, appeared and accepted a document containing three demands. They were: A firmly worded public statement by President Nixon condemning Soviet treatment of Jews; the inauguration of Yiddish or Hebrew broadcasts on Voice of America programs beamed to the Soviet Union; and government support for bills pending in both houses of Congress for 30,000 emergency visas for Soviet Jews. The pickets said they would return next Tuesday if there was no response from the government, even if the Federal judge denies their injunction appeal. The eight were: Rev. Robert B. Carey, a member of the New York Annual Conference of United Methodists; Sister Rose Thering, coordinator of the Institute of Judaic-Christian Relations at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.; Rabbi Irving Greenberg, of the Riverdale Jewish Center; Rabbi Steven Riskin, of Lincoln Square Synagogue; Rabbi Abraham Weiss, of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Monsey, N.Y.; Rabbi Aryeh Gottlieb, of the Jewish Community Center, Paramus, N.J. and Rabbi Charles Sheer, Jewish student chaplain at Columbia University.

Zand In Letter To Thant, UN Rights Commission Writes Family In 'Critical Situation'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 3 (JTA)--Describing himself as "a former citizen of the USSR," Prof. Mikhail I. Zand of Moscow has advised Secretary General Thant and the Human Rights Commission, as well as the Soviet leadership, that he and the other six members of his family "are in a critical situation." Zand, whose attempts to migrate to Israel have been rebuffed by the Soviets since he gave up his Soviet citizenship May 13 and whose visa permit has been postponed for an "indefinite period," made his plea known in a letter delivered to Thant today by Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoa. Zand registered his "categorical protest in connection with the shameful and illegal acts committed toward me and my family," who gave up their apartment and belongings and are being "forcibly detained" and "deprived of every means of subsistence." Zand called the Soviet policy "a crude mockery of elementary human rights and a manifestation of inhumanity on the part of the Ministry of Interior of the USSR, as it is known that I am an invalid and my wife and my mother are sick."

Lebanese Delegation Negotiating For Purchase Of Additional Arms From France

PARIS, June 3 (JTA)--A Lebanese delegation headed by the Defense Minister, has been negotiating here for the purchase of additional French arms and modern radar equipment, it was learned today. According to reliable sources, the negotiations have not been concluded and will be resumed in Beirut next month. The delegation attended the International Air Show at Le Bourget Airport.

Mrs. Meir Concerned 15-Year UAR-USSR Pact Endangers Mideast Arms Balance

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir returned home from her Scandinavian visit last night, repeated denials that she met secretly with Soviet officials in Finnish Lapland last week-end, and expressed serious concern that the new 15-year Soviet-Egyptian treaty of friendship and cooperation would once more endanger the arms balance in the Middle East. Mrs. Meir said that as a result of the treaty, the Soviet Union virtually acquired "permanent settlers" status in the Middle East. The Israeli Premier termed "inaccurate" a report in a Swedish newspaper that her unexpected flight from Stockholm to a remote hunting lodge in northern Finland last Saturday was to meet Soviet officials. Earlier, the Premier's office in Jerusalem denied the report and said Mrs. Meir's sojourn was for a "rest." Mrs. Meir said in Oslo before flying home yesterday that she would welcome a renewal of diplomatic ties with the USSR which were broken by Moscow during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. She stated that the 15-year Soviet-Egyptian pact committed the Soviet Union to unqualified support of Egypt against Israel and observed that Soviet arms supplies and training of Egyptian forces could create an imbalance of power and lead to a dangerous situation.

Mrs. Meir expressed suspicion that there are secret clauses in the treaty and noted that the pact contained options for a five-year extension when the 15-year term expires. She said the treaty involved Moscow in practically everything that goes on in Egypt, adding, "that is an Egyptian problem." In her initial comment on the treaty in Stockholm last week, Mrs. Meir took the position that it contained nothing new and merely formalized an existing relationship between Egypt and the USSR. Political analysts in Israel however took a graver view of the pact and Mrs. Meir's remarks at the airport last night indicated that she might now share that view. Asked about the Socialist International Conference in Helsinki which she addressed, Mrs. Meir said she was confident that the world's Socialist leaders were, on the whole, backing Israel. She added, however, "We must wait and see what they do."

Eight Kishinev Jewish Students Ask For Israeli Citizenship Under New Law

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Eight Jewish students from Kishinev, in Soviet Moldavia, have sent a letter to President Zalman Shazar asking for Israeli citizenship under a recently adopted amendment to the immigration law under which Jews prevented from coming to Israel can be granted citizenship in absentia. The signers said most of them had been expelled from Russian universities because of their Zionist convictions. "We have learned with great pleasure of the new law and wish to become Israeli citizens," they wrote. Nine Jews are expected to go on trial in Kishinev on June 21.

ADL Delegation Urges Papal Intercession On Behalf Of Soviet Jews

ROME, June 3 (JTA)--Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, at an audience yesterday with Pope Paul VI, urged papal intercession on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union. Graubard, with Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, headed a delegation of 80 American Jewish leaders, members of the League's Society of Fellows, returning from a mission to Israel. Graubard expressed his gratitude for the Vatican's earlier intervention on behalf of the nine Leningrad Jews sentenced in Dec. Noting that new trials are scheduled and harassment of Soviet Jews is continuing, Graubard told the Pope: "We take the liberty of asking for your continued interest and help. The spiritual prestige and authority of the Holy See will be of tremendous help to these innocent victims." In welcoming the ADL delegation, the Pope reiterated the view of the Vatican Council to foster and recommend mutual understanding, respect and "brotherly dialogue." He noted that "we are especially sensitive to all forms of discrimination, which impede fraternal charity among men and offend human dignity."

The Pope also reaffirmed his position against "all discrimination based on race, origin, color, culture, sex or religion," and praised the ADL for its "efforts for creating that climate between Christians and Jews and among all men." The Pope, however, refrained from making any statement on the problem of the Soviet Jews and made no reference to the issue of Jerusalem. Last March the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano endorsed a plan for the internationalization of Jerusalem which created great concern among many Jewish groups. Bringing greetings to Pope Paul from Jewish communities in America represented by the delegation, Graubard expressed gratification over the progress in the U.S. of the ecumenical efforts of Vatican II. "Interreligious cooperation," he said, "has always held a high priority in the program of the Anti-Defamation League. In the common goal for the brotherhood of mankind, we work closely with our Catholic brothers in the United States. We are greatly heartened by the establishment of the Vatican Office for Catholic-Jewish Relations and by the establishment in our country of a similar office of Catholic bishops." Graubard noted that, in the spirit of ecumenism, the delegation had visited a number of Christian Holy Places in Israel, and had observed that these shrines received special, respectful care from Israeli authorities.

Anti-Semitic, Anti-Zionist Tract Prepared By Novosti Distributed In East Germany

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--German translations of an anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist pamphlet prepared by Novosti, the Soviet overseas news agency, are being circulated all over East Germany, it was reported here today. The pamphlet is part of a Novosti series dealing with ethnic minorities in the USSR. It includes Yevgeny Yevsayev's "Jewry--A Tool Of Imperialism" which accuses Jews of siding the Nazis in the murder of other Jews, including the Babi Yar massacre. It compares Israeli Premier Golda Meir to Hitler. Novosti, whose dispatches are circulated abroad but not inside the Soviet Union, recently dismissed charges of anti-Semitism in Russia as "ridiculous and grotesque."

Moscow-Cairo Pact Will Neither Effect Nor Be Effected By Proposed Federation

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Foreign Ministry analysts do not believe the new Soviet-Egyptian treaty will affect or be affected by the projected federation of Egypt with Libya and Syria scheduled to be ratified next Sept. The analysts say the treaty applies only to Egypt and not to its federation partners and note that the three countries will retain their individual sovereignty, capitals and armed forces. The federation agreement is not a merger and provides only for consultations between member

countries on foreign policy. After the federation comes into effect in Sept. a treaty such as the one between Cairo and Moscow would require consultation and coordination among the three partners, but would not be precluded, Foreign Ministry sources said. The military aspects of the new pact were stressed yesterday by President Anwar Sadat in an address to the Egyptian National Assembly. He said the pact, for the first time, provided a long-range basis for Soviet assistance to Egypt including training in the use of modern weapons. "This is the new element. This is what we want and that is what we must adhere to since we believe that the battle will be imposed on us," Sadat said. He added he would not agree to territorial concessions to Israel for the sake of a settlement but stressed that Egypt still hoped for a peaceful solution. Although there was no official reaction to President Nixon's remarks on the Soviet-Egyptian treaty during his Tuesday night press conference, some Israeli newspapers offered their assessments. Nixon had expressed U.S. readiness to rectify an imbalance of power in the Middle East that the new pact might create.

The newspapers Davar and Haaretz expressed satisfaction with the President's warning against a new arms race in the Mideast and his commitment "to step up military aid to Israel to prevent the military balance from swinging to the Arabs." Davar remarked, however, that "the lukewarm American reaction to the new friendship treaty stems from an unwillingness to admit openly that it constitutes a diplomatic blow to Washington." Al Hamishmar said, "The two stresses--maintenance of the arms balance and efforts toward a settlement--are characteristic of President Nixon's general grasp of matters, striving for talks with the Soviet Union on a mutual limitation of forces in Europe and for a political settlement in the Middle East, paralleled by efforts to improve relations with China." Hatzofer, referring to rumors of Soviet contacts with Israeli officials, suggested that "The Soviet Union must have an interest in dialogue with Israel as a counter-measure to the United States dialogue with Egypt and other Arab states." The two leading Soviet newspapers, Pravda and Izvestia, sharply criticized U.S. efforts to promote a Mideast settlement and improve relations with Egypt. A front page editorial in Pravda, organ of the Soviet Communist Party, called the Moscow-Cairo pact "a new blow at the plans of international imperialism which is trying to drive a wedge in the relations of the two countries, undermine friendship between them and divide the progressive forces." Izvestia, the government organ, said the only Mideast settlement desired by the U.S. was one that met "its own imperialist ends."

U.S. Law Professor Says He Was Denied Right To Attend Trial Of Riga Four

LONDON, June 3 (JTA)--An American law professor with credentials as a civil rights activist, was denied permission by Soviet authorities to attend the trial of four Jews in Riga last week or to visit any of the defendants. Prof. Henry McGee Jr., who teaches criminal law at the University of California, Los Angeles, gave the Jewish Telegraphic Agency an account today of his visit to the Soviet Union between May 22-30 and his fruitless efforts to observe the Riga trial. With obvious disgust, Prof. McGee said "I was scheduled to stay in Riga six days but I stayed only three. After three days my Intourist guides told me it would be best for me to leave." McGee said he particularly wanted to see Ruth Aleksandrovich, a 23-year-old nurse who was one of the defendants at the Riga trial. He had a letter from her mother, Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, pleading with him to visit her daughter. But the Soviet authorities were unmovable, he said. He said he was also prevented from seeing members of her family. Prof. McGee visited Moscow, Leningrad and Riga. He had identification as chairman of the UCLA faculty committee for Angela Davis, an American black militant facing trial on charges of complicity in a kidnap-murder in California and a former UCLA faculty member. He is also a member of the National Committee of Law Professors of Major American Universities in Support of Defense Counsel for Miss Davis. McGee told the JTA that he arrived in Riga on the eve of the trial and asked about Miss Aleksandrovich but was not even informed that the trial was about to begin. "Instead, I was brought into contact with Riga Jews who are obviously establishment people and apologists for the Soviet authorities," he said.

Wife Of Prison Warden Kidnaped, Escapes; Police Searching For Kidnapers

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--Police are searching for the kidnapers of Mrs. Rachel Slonim, wife of the warden of the Tzofia women's prison, who was seized by three persons yesterday but escaped before her husband reported her missing. The kidnapers had demanded the release of five prostitutes held at Tzofia as ransom for Mrs. Slonim. According to the victim's account, she was kidnaped near her home in Bnei Brak while going to the grocery. She said she was taken to Haifa blindfolded and tied. But she managed to get away after her abductors untied her hands and removed the blindfold. She called police from a neighboring house. According to police, Mrs. Slonim's husband received several kidnap threats against his wife last week demanding that he free the prostitutes. Tzofia prison is an institution where convicted prostitutes are incarcerated and efforts made to reform them.

Son Of Murdered Tunisian Rabbi Says Killer Was A Palestinian

TEL AVIV, June 3 (JTA)--The son of Tunisian Rabbi Matzliah Maazouz who was murdered last January, claimed today that Tunisian authorities concealed the true identity of the killer. Meir Maazouz, himself a rabbi, who arrived here last night with his family, said he learned from a Jewish eyewitness to the murder that his father's killer was a Palestinian, not a Tunisian described by the authorities as mentally deranged. The elder Maazouz was fatally shot on his way to the synagogue. His son said the photograph of the alleged murderer published by the authorities was not that of the actual killer. He also said that Tunisian authorities permitted only three of the 20 synagogues in Tunisia to be open during the High Holidays last year.

Sapir Predicts 5 Million Population By 1980 And Three-Fold Rise In Output Of Goods

JERUSALEM, June 3 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir predicted last night that Israel would have a population of five million by 1980 and announced that he has set up a team to work out plans for industrial development that would raise Israel's output of goods to \$13.650 billion compared to the present \$4.550 billion. Addressing the Israel Manufacturers Association, Sapir also urged a moratorium on labor disputes.

