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Students Seize House Reserved For New Immigrants: Turn It Over To Family Of 11

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA)--Thirty Hebrew University students, most of them majoring in social work, seized an empty apartment in the fashionable Talpiot quarter that the Housing Ministry had reserved for new immigrants and turned it over yesterday to a family of 11 which has been living in a one-and-a-half room flat. The Ministry took no immediate steps to evict the family of Mordechai Reuven. But it refuses to deal with their problem until they vacate. Reuven said he would move if he had a formal promise from the authorities to help him enlarge his present home in the Katamon quarter. Reuven, a municipal employe, earns \$245 a month. Three of his children are presently in a hospital with illnesses he says they contracted as a result of their cramped living quarters. His eight-year-old daughter, Shula, is suffering from rheumatic fever and a heart condition. The incident reflects a problem of serious proportions in which large families at or near the poverty level have inadequate housing while the government allocates superior housing to immigrants with smaller families arriving mainly from the Soviet Union and Western countries. The situation has given rise to deep resentments which exploded ten days ago in the rioting of Jerusalem slum youths who style themselves Black Panthers. To alleviate the situation, the Housing Ministry announced last week that 13,000 new flats planned for immigrants during the next five years would be assigned to large families instead. The Ministry also promised substantial low interest loans to enable poor families to enlarge their quarters.

The students acted following an appearance by the Reuven family last month at the Wise Auditorium of the Hebrew University to describe their problem. The oldest of the Reuven children is 15. Reuven said he was reluctant to go along with the seizure of the Talpiot apartment but decided that he had no choice after government and municipal officials said they could not help him. He said he got that response to letters he sent to Deputy Premier Yigal Allon, Mayor Teddy Kolek of Jerusalem and the Housing Ministry. The Talpiot apartment is newly built. Yesterday afternoon the students broke the lock and moved in several beds, candles, a carpet and supper for the Reuven children. In an unrelated case arising from the acute housing problem in Jerusalem, a crowd of about 80 including Black Panthers, demonstrated yesterday in the Yemin Moshe quarter. The demonstration was organized by Eddij Malka, a Panther leader, who claimed that two years ago officials convinced him to leave his flat because the building was about to be demolished to make way for a public park. Malka received \$15,750 in compensation, a sum with which he could have bought a superior flat. But he claims he was cheated because the building was not destroyed but was "given" to a "wealthy American family." He claims he was treated "rudely" and "dishonestly" by the authorities because he is not Ashkenazi--a Western Jew. An official of the East Jerusalem Development Authority which took over the building denied Malka's charges. He said four Ashkenazi families were evacuated from the building on equal terms.

Russian Jewish Painter Assaulted By Hooligans; Seriously Injured, Hospitalized

NEW YORK, June 8 (JTA)--Jewish sources here reported today that a well-known Russian-Jewish painter, Mikhail Pirovkhov, was seriously injured when assaulted by anti-Semitic hooligans on a Moscow street May 28 and is still in a hospital. The sources said Pirovkhov was looking for a taxi when he was beaten up. They said his assailants told him, "Jews aren't going to ride in taxis in Moscow any more."

Immigrant Families Stage Sit-In To Protest Location Of Flats Assigned To Them

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA)--Five immigrant families from Soviet Georgia who arrived here last night, staged a sit-in at the Absorption Ministry offices at Lydda Airport to protest the location of the flats assigned to them. Ministry officials said the demonstration was incited by relatives of the new arrivals. The immigrants demanded flats in Lydda instead of in Ramleh, an adjacent previously Arab town. Officials tried to explain that Lydda and Ramleh were "twin-cities." Meanwhile, Uri Narkis, executive director of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, said that Russian-speaking personnel will be employed shortly in absorption centers throughout the country to expedite the processing of immigrants from the Soviet Union. He said about a third of the new immigrants from Russia are being channeled through absorption centers. New centers started to function recently at Beit Shemesh which has 40 apartments and in Pardes Hannah. New centers will open this summer at Maalot and Givat Ada with 60 and 90 flats respectively, Narkis said. Last night's plane from Vienna brought another large group of Soviet Jews. One of the newcomers, Mrs. Batya Levin of Riga, said she and her husband were given exit visas when they insisted on testifying for the defense in last month's trial of four Jews in Riga. Mrs. Levin said Soviet authorities tried to force her to testify for the prosecution but that she refused. She said she was subjected to daily interrogation for a year by the Soviet security services.

'Urgent Appeal' By 8,300 Christian Leaders On Behalf Of Soviet Jews Given To Bush

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 8 (JTA)--United States Ambassador George Bush accepted an "urgent appeal" from 8,300 Christian leaders today and they stayed on for half an hour discussing ways of alleviating the plight of Soviet Jewry. The "Statement of Conscience" was presented to him and Deputy Ambassador Christopher H. Phillips by an interfaith delegation headed by Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has formulated the text of the appeal. Bush said that his views on the matter to Soviet Ambassador Yakob A. Malik had been dismissed as baseless. But he told the delegation that "we're going to continue to discuss it very, very

seriously" with the Soviets. He added that he would seek to present the petitioners' case to President Nixon and to Secretary General Thant. He noted that the General Assembly will probably consider the question of Soviet Jewry next fall after receiving a report from the Commission on Human Rights. Bush recalled that he recently advised a Soviet delegation that "this country is tremendously concerned about this problem." He stressed, however, that the "illegal tactics of the Jewish Defense League were 'detrimental' to the cause of Soviet Jews. Graubard was joined among others, by the Rev. Edward Flannery, executive secretary of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; the Most Rev. J. Brooke Mosley, president of the Union Theological Seminary; Dr. Jon L. Regier, associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches; the Rt. Rev. J. Stuart Wetmore, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York; Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, chairman of ADL's Intercultural Affairs Committee, and ADL national director Benjamin R. Epstein. The petitions, expressing "profound" concern with the situation of Soviet Jews, were signed by representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and 19 Protestant denominations--white and black--in all 50 states.

Strike Halts Bus Service For Three Hours; Other Bus Strikes Planned

TEL AVIV, June 8 (JTA)--Bus service, the chief means of public transportation in Israel, was halted for three hours today as the two bus cooperatives staged a work stoppage in an attempt to force the government to approve higher fares. The cooperatives, Dan in the Tel Aviv region and Egged countrywide, said the action was the first of a series of stoppages planned in the next three days as a "warning." Tourist sightseeing buses and military buses were not affected. There were threats of a general transportation strike by the end of the week unless the government changes its policy on bus fares. The Transport Ministry has reportedly made plans for such a contingency. The cooperatives argue that Israel enjoys one of the lowest bus fares in the world, made possible by government subsidies. But the two bus lines have accumulated a combined deficit of nearly \$70 million which the government attributes to poor management. The government is reluctant to raise the fares because it would effect the cost-of-living which is tied in to most wage contracts in Israel.

Polish Jewish Emigration Restricted; Rumanian Jews Have Shortage Of Religious Leaders

SACRAMENTO, June 8 (JTA)--Polish Jews are being subjected to emigration restrictions and Rumanian Jews are being threatened by a shortage of religious leaders, the Sacramento Jewish Federation reports in the June issue of its Jewish Federation Bulletin. There were an estimated 7,000 Jews in Poland in January, around 1,000 having emigrated last year, the Bulletin says, adding that more would have left but for "visa refusals, on grounds of 'State interest.'" Of the 7,000 total, it is said, "perhaps 2,000 are 'of emigrable age'--though not all may want to leave--and the other 5,000 are over 60 years old, 'mostly poor, sick or handicapped'" and "in continuous need of assistance." Those 5,000, the Bulletin said, "will probably stay in Poland, 'barring new political upheavals and another resurgence of 'anti-Zionist' propaganda.'" (According to encyclopedias, there were nearly 3 million Jews in Poland in 1929. In 1958 there were an estimated 30,000.)

In Rumania, the Federation Bulletin continues, Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen "has been increasingly concerned for some time about the diminishing number of trained personnel, especially shochtim and the Hebrew teachers needed for the children's programs." The "missing generation" that was eradicated by the Nazis "make itself felt ever more painfully," the report says, since "not only were a whole generation's functionaries wiped out but also the Jewish institutions which trained them." The Bulletin notes that less than half of the 900,000 prewar Jewish population survived the Holocaust and that three-quarters of those moved to Israel. "Thus," it concludes, "the remnant of Rumanian Jewry never had a chance to replenish its leadership and functionaries, especially with well over half of those remaining now elderly and often ailing."

Rabbis, Vietnam War Vets Plan To Plant Trees in Vietnam

WASHINGTON, June 8 (JTA)--The Vietnam Veterans Against The War inaugurated a project with five Washington area rabbis today to plant \$50,000 worth of trees in Vietnam as a means of "repairing the ecological destruction caused by American defoliation." The project is directed to the Washington Jewish community. According to Rabbi Joseph P. Weinberg, of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, it is "a vehicle for the Jewish community to express concern over the war in a Jewish context." The anti-war group joined by the rabbis and local students held a formal signing ceremony of the Peoples Peace Treaty. The original was signed in Dec., 1970 by American, South and North Vietnamese students opposed to the present government in Saigon and demanding immediate total withdrawal of American forces from Indo-China. Bruce Waxman, a member of the Vietnam Veterans Against The War, called on the Jewish community "to end the separation between being Jewish and being people." He urged Jews to oppose the war as Jews, out of religious and ethical scruples. "We can't just feel Jewish on Yom Kippur," Waxman said. In addition to Rabbi Weinberg, the rabbis participating in the signing today were Eugene Lipman, of Temple Sinai; Harold White of the American University Hillel chapter; Bernard Nehlman, of Temple Micah and E. William Seaman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

WZO Reported World's Largest Jewish Voluntary Group

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA)--The World Zionist Organization now ranks as the world's largest Jewish voluntary body with a membership amounting to 10 percent of the world's Jewish population, it was presented in a report on the results of a one-year world-wide membership drive and census made public here yesterday. According to Avraham Schenker, head of the Jewish Agency's organization and information department, Zionist enrollment stands at 850,000 persons in 40 countries. Schenker's report said the membership includes many Jews who never belonged to a Jewish organization in the past, among them intellectuals and New Leftists. The persons who responded to the census were over 18 years of age, primarily heads of families. In the U.S., 650,000 persons are registered as Zionists, accounting for ten percent of the Jewish population.

Soviets Introduce Advance Missiles, Jets In Egypt; Bar Lev Sees No Peace This Year

JERUSALEM, June 8 (JTA)—Reliable circles here reported today that the Soviets have introduced an advanced type of missile and a new type of jet interceptors into Egypt. They said the advanced weapons were part of the March airlift in which Soviet planes landed substantial quantities of new military equipment in Egypt. Political circles here said today that the Russians do not appear to want another war in the region since they have consolidated their position in Egypt for a long time to come through the 15-year Cairo-Moscow treaty. The circles said that the Russians intend to use Egypt as a springboard for expanding their influence in Africa and the Persian Gulf. They do not want this springboard, with its two naval and six air bases, to be risked in a new war between Egypt and Israel. The Moscow-Cairo pact is expected to figure in Premier Golda Meir's political report tomorrow to the Knesset. Mrs. Meir is expected to reiterate that despite the recent developments, Israel is still prepared to enter into an interim arrangement with Egypt to re-open the Suez Canal, informed political circles said today.

Israel takes a serious view of the Soviet-Egyptian treaty nevertheless, the circles said. They regard the treaty as a coup for the Kremlin and a "disaster" for the policies of rapprochement with Egypt pursued by U.S. Secretary of State Rogers. Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev of Israel's armed forces told foreign newsmen today that he saw no hope for peace this year but was confident that there would be no new outbreak of war. Gen. Bar Lev said peace was precluded for the time being because the Egyptians insist that Israel return to its pre-June, 1967 lines. "We do not claim that the Suez Canal is a final border, but we are not going back to where Egypt concentrated its troops in 1967," he said. He observed that none of the parties involved—Egypt, Israel, the U.S. or the Soviet Union—wants a renewal of hostilities. The Egyptians, he said, "see no point in starting a new war because nobody can be sure that a new war will change the present situation." Gen. Bar Lev said that should fighting resume, "I am confident that Egypt will not find itself in a better position. I am confident that we shall hold all cease-fire lines."

Six Young American Jews Search For Meaningful Jewish Life In Secular Society

NEW YORK, June 8 (JTA)—Six young American Jews last night discussed their individual and collective searches for meaningful Jewish life in a secular society which they feel has denied American Jewry of its Jewish identity. They called for changes in the way American Jews relate to their heritage, to each other, and to the non-Jewish world around them. The six, all involved in a variety of Jewish political, educational and religious activities, were panelists at a YIVO Institute for Jewish Research session on "The American Jewish Counter-Culture: Youth In Search of Creative Survival." The session is part of YIVO's 45th annual conference. It was attended by over 125 people. The session's moderator, Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, of the School for Jewish Communal Science, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, said that the discussion would provide adults in particular—and these were many in the small, crowded hall—the opportunity to "understand" the radicalism and revolution which he said are signs of life in the Jewish community. Steven Cohen, an assistant professor of social psychology at Harvard and editor of Genesis II, said American Jews must unite as a people and seek success as a body, not as atomized individuals. He warned young Jewish activists not to fall into the trap of the Jewish establishment which, he said, stresses solutions for only small numbers of Jews, not for the people as a whole. The lesson of Zionism, he said, is that "great individuals can grow from the depths of the Jewish experience within the community, not only outside it."

Robert Goldman, secretary-general of the North American Jewish Student network and an active in the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, criticized the Jewish establishment of living on "institutionalized crises. We think in terms of horrors, not peace," and only mobilize for causes such as the plight of Soviet Jews. He emphasized the need for Jews to "recognize our inner need to be Jews, or we remain enslaved to identities that are useless." He urged Jews to "try within themselves to find Jewish life that means something." Rabbi Hillel Levine, a teaching fellow in sociology at Harvard and a member of Havurat Shalom in Boston, recalled that the unliberated Jews of Eastern Europe never had a problem of Jewish identity. Jews in this country have paid a "price" to become American, he said, and for all the American Jewish community's money and institutions, there may be "no Jews left in this place." Levine said Jews have to rediscover the terms of their participation in American society, and must contest the definition of being a Jew and the content of Jewish existence. Arthur R. Waskow, active in Jews for Urban Justice in Washington and author of the controversial Freedom Seder, said "We are not entitled to be Jewish about anything that is dangerous," such as the Vietnam War. He spoke of the moral role Jews must play in preventing a recurrence of both the holocaust and Hiroshima. Waskow emphasized the need for a strong Jewish diaspora which actually engages in the social issues of the world at large. "There must be a diaspora as well as an Israel if there is to be a worldwide Jewish community," Waskow said.

Dina Rosenfeld, a graduate student at Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work and a member of the New York Havura, spoke of her initial attraction as a Jew because of her previous understanding of the women's role in Jewish life. But now, she said, she views the role of Jewish women not as a "facility" of the Jewish male, but as the "sustainer or riddishkeit in the home." She said it is important that women not seek to imitate the Jewish male's role, for example in the synagogue, but "to find something creative and unique to fulfill her spiritual needs." Summing up, Eugene Orenstein, assistant professor of Jewish studies at Montreal's McGill University said the other panelists, all of whom identify themselves as religious as well as somewhat radical politically, are part of a "long and noble Jewish tradition" extending back to Moses Mendelssohn, Rambam and Philo of Alexandria. They are not "new or strange," he said, and it is a "great accomplishment" that they can clearly identify "the major problems facing the Jewish community today." It was probably the first time that such a diverse group of young Jewish activists had been gathered on a single panel.

