

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Medical Report Shows Ruth Aleksandrovich In Serious Condition; Could Die From Disorders

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--In the presence of Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, a team of kidney specialists contended today that her daughter, Ruth, was probably in "serious" condition in Riga and could well die of her disorders. The specialists based their opinions on a June 8 report from the 24-year-old prisoner's former personal physician, Dr. V. Portnoy, writing from Ulpan Etalon, Jerusalem. Dr. Portnoy recalled last October Miss Aleksandrovich experienced "a sharp deterioration in her state of health," and that he prescribed diet, bed rest, antibiotics, vascular dilators and symptomatic remedies to aid her. But, he continued, "After a few days of the treatment, the patient was forcibly subjected to an examination of KGB (Soviet secret police) physicians in charge of the patient, about my error in the diagnosis. Without making their own diagnosis, they wrote in the case history that the patient could be further subjected to interrogations." Dr. Portnoy wrote that he had disagreed with the KGB's conclusion and that, after consulting with the Section Head, decided to resume his examination. "For this it was necessary to make a consultation with the lung specialist," he wrote, "but the patient had already been taken for detention in prison."

Dr. Portnoy's letter was made public here today at a press conference at the headquarters of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith at which Mrs. Aleksandrovich appealed to the American medical community to aid her imprisoned daughter, because "I'm afraid she won't be able to stand the four months" remaining on her 1-year conviction for alleged anti-Soviet propaganda. Dr. Ira Greifer, director of pediatrics at the Hospital of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and director of the National Kidney Foundation, headed the team of specialists who examined Dr. Portnoy's report. He noted the report's reference to "exacerbation of chronic pyelonephritis," and described that condition as a "serious" one representing "the end results of recurring infection of the kidney with resultant impairment of kidney functions." His conclusions were seconded by the five other doctors present at the press conference. Dr. Greifer said Miss Aleksandrovich required a special diet, sanitary conditions and continued medical care. Her mother reported that during her recent week in solitary confinement, she was placed in a cell with a wet floor and no bed and fed a regimen of bread and water. Her daughter, she continued, is now the only woman in the Potiama prison in central Moldavia.

Mrs. Aleksandrovich said that she had shifted her emphasis, while in the United States, from freeing Ruth to "saving her life." All six physicians at the press conference said they would be willing to apply for visas to go to Riga, but one explained that they wanted word from B'nai B'rith first that they would be allowed to visit Miss Aleksandrovich. Speaking for B'nai B'rith, Dr. Elliot Rosenberg, first vice-president of District I, said the organization would, within two weeks, urge the American medical community to protest the prisoner's treatment to the Soviet authorities. Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent why quicker action could not be taken, Dr. Rosenberg agreed to take action within "a few days." At that point Mrs. Aleksandrovich rose and asked Dr. Rosenberg why B'nai B'rith could not seek direct medical aid for her daughter instead of letters from doctors, and why it could not protest directly to President Nixon. Regarding action to obtain direct medical aid, Dr. Rosenberg said: "I'm sure we will abide by her request." Regarding an appeal to President Nixon, he said: "I'm sure this will be taken up by our special (political) committee."

## 11 More Soviet Jewish Mothers Ask Soviet Authorities To Let Their Children Go

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--Eleven more Soviet Jewish mothers have petitioned the Soviet authorities to let their children go to Israel even if they themselves have to stay behind, Jewish sources here said today. The Lithuanian mothers--two of them identified as Ruth Glickman and Anette Groseman--have a total of 14 offspring. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported June 1 that 12 Jewish women of Moscow with a total of 15 children had made such an unprecedented request. The Lithuanian petition was submitted three days ago, the sources said. They also reported that 32 of the 70 Wilna Jews who sat in at Communist Party headquarters on two successive days last week carried out a similar protest in Moscow on Monday, sitting in at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and demanding action on their delayed emigration applications. Just as the 70 Jews were dispersed by the police, the 32 were forcibly removed from the Ministry after they refused to leave. They were not received by Ministry officials. In another incident in Moscow, 27-year-old Jew Yulia Libman of Riga, who had applied unsuccessfully for emigration nine times, embarked on a hunger strike at the Ministry, Jewish sources said. She has a husband and a 5-year-old son.

## Two N.Y. Congressmen Reject VOA Director's Response On Yiddish Broadcasts To USSR

WASHINGTON, June 16 (JTA)--Two New York Congressmen today rejected the negative response by Voice of America director Frank Shakespeare to a letter signed by 73 House members supporting the addition of Yiddish language programs to VOA broadcasts to the Soviet Union. Rep. William F. Ryan, Democrat-Liberal of New York, sponsor of a resolution in the House favoring the Yiddish language programs, said Shakespeare's reply was "no response at all," adding, "he misses our point." Shakespeare wrote that "Even assuming it were technically feasible to inaugurate a Yiddish service, we would be, in effect, increasing our costs without materially increasing our audience." Rep. John Dow, Republican of N.Y., told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he disagreed with Shakespeare's implication that there were relatively few Jews in the USSR who understood Yiddish. He said, "I don't believe that the American people feel that increased support for the Soviet Jews through specific Yiddish broadcasts is inconsistent with our country's national interests." Dow said he was still waiting for a reply to a letter he sent President Nixon on the issue May 27.

Shakespeare stated in his letter, "Although at this time we are not prepared to inaugurate the service which you propose, we shall continue to stress in our broadcasts the deep concern of the U.S....and

provide all the moral support and encouragement which is consistent with our national interests and with the agency's mission." Meanwhile, Sen. Clifford Case, New Jersey Republican, and Sen. John Tunney, California Democrat, said yesterday that they would circulate a letter among their Senate colleagues to co-sponsor a resolution similar to the Ryan resolution. An aide in Sen. Tunney's office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that objections were expected from some Senators on grounds that there are fewer Jews than any of the other ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union that are recipients of VOA broadcasts. He said there might also be objections on grounds that only elderly Jews in Russia, not the young activists, understand Yiddish. The aide, said, however, that Sen. Tunney sees the measure as "a strong symbolic gesture of support" independent of the exact number of Jews who will understand the broadcasts.

### Israel Buying Tankers To Keep Up With Success Of Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--Israeli shipping interests are buying tankers at inflated prices in order to keep oil flowing in increasing quantities to the new Eilat-Ashkelon pipeline. The success of the pipeline has exceeded the most ardent hopes of its promoters but Israel's tanker fleet has failed to keep pace with the demand, maritime business circles said here today. As a result, the criteria for buying tankers is not price or size but immediate availability, the circles said. One ten-year-old tanker was just purchased for \$10 million, \$6 million more than its original price. A 68,000 deadweight ton tanker, small by current standards, was bought second hand for \$20 million while a brand new 250,000 deadweight ton vessel cost \$19 million. The Zim Lines, Israel's largest shipping company, has four 250,000 ton tankers under construction at European yards with a combined capacity of 20 million tons of oil per year. That is approximately the tonnage of oil presently being pumped through the Eilat-Ashkelon line, but it represents only half of capacity. The Zim tankers will be ready by 1974, according to the company's managing director, Moshe Kashti. The pipeline hopes to increase its flow to 30 million tons by next year. Its owners are said to regret that they made it 42 inches wide instead of 48. Meanwhile, the tank farms and oil terminal at Eilat are being expanded to double their unloading and storage capacity.

### Jewish Communities In Holland Ask Luns To Stop EEC Draft Statement On Mideast

AMSTERDAM, June 16 (JTA)--The Jewish communities in Holland have appealed to Foreign Minister Joseph Luns to try to stop a draft statement on the Middle East recently adopted tentatively by the six member nations of the European Common Market. The document calls for Israel's return to its pre-June, 1967 borders, international status for Jerusalem and the option of cash compensation or repatriation for Palestinian refugees. The statement is strongly supported by France. Dr. Luns is known to have opposed it personally. Representatives of the Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Liberal Jewish communities wrote to the Foreign Minister, "We hope that you will succeed in foiling any efforts by France or any other nation for the implementation of an EEC collective policy which does not accord with Israel's desire for peace and security."

### B'nai B'rith Conclave Calls On Israel, UAR, U.S., USSR To Reach Mideast Accord

HOUSTON, June 16 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith District 7, ending its annual convention here, called on Israel, Egypt, the United States and the Soviet Union to engage in "intensive efforts to reach an agreement for a just and enduring peace in the Middle East." The 10,000-member District also called on Mideast negotiator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring to "give priority to the efforts to extend the current cease-fire so that the negotiations can proceed in a climate of peace." In other resolutions, the convention: urged the USSR to "end the whole range of discrimination to which (Soviet) Jews are subjected"; endorsed "unrelenting efforts to obtain for Soviet Jews recognition of the fundamental human rights enjoyed by citizens in all progressive lands"; condemned South African apartheid; urged Senate ratification of the United Nations' Genocide Convention; backed efforts to erase urban blight; and asked such organizations as the International Red Cross and the UN Commission on Human Rights to help free the Jews in Arab lands. At an earlier session, Dr. William A. Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith charged that Secretary of State William P. Rogers "naivete" hastened a "giving away" of the Middle East to the Soviet Union.

### \$14M Ground Tracking Station To Bring Israel Into International COMSAT

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--Israel has taken its first step to hook up with the international satellite communications system. The \$14 million, 15-story ground tracking station is being constructed by the General Telephone and Electronics International Systems Corp. The Export-Import Bank loaned Israel \$1.575 million for the project. The new facility will add 400 international phone lines to Israel's communications system which presently has 128 lines carried by the undersea cable from Marseilles. During the next six months, 50 Israeli telephone subscribers will be able to direct-dial overseas calls and in five years all Israeli overseas calls would be made by direct dialing.

### Sapir Says Israel Faces Danger Of Commercial Isolation

JERUSALEM, June 16 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir said yesterday that Israel faced the danger of commercial isolation owing to the trend toward the regional political organization of international trade, he said that if the trend continued, Israel could find itself without trading partners. Sapir presented a survey to the Knesset by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry which he heads. He said international trade was becoming a political rather than a commercial matter. He conceded that Israel's hopes of being admitted as a full member of the European Common Market have been "dashed." He said that when Israel signed its first preferential trade treaty with the EEC last year it hoped for ultimate membership "but this, to our regret, has not been the case." According to Sapir, the reason was that "there is little understanding for Israel's needs abroad."

### Youth Aliya Prepared To Absorb, Educate Soviet Jewish Children

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA)--Joseph Klarman, the head of Youth Aliya, said today that the movement was prepared to bring to Israel, absorb and educate Russian-Jewish children whose parents are prohibited from emigrating. There are about 500 children from Russia presently in Youth Aliya centers.

### AJCongress Official Raps Quaker Report On Mideast

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--The controversial American Friends Service Committee report, "Search for Peace in the Middle East," was criticized today by a national vice-president of the American Jewish Congress for proposing "imposed" solutions to the current stalemate which will only provide an "interlude between wars," not "real peace." The editor of the Quaker document charged that he and the report, which recognizes the legitimacy of Israel's existence, are being branded anti-Israel because they oppose "some policies of the dominant" segment of Premier Golda Meir's government. Theodore R. Mann, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia and a former president of the AJCongress' Philadelphia Council, and Dr. Landrum R. Bolling, president of Earlham College and editor of the document, debated the study at a meeting of the Congress' Women's Division Board at the Stephen Wise Congress House here. Bolling rejected previously made claims that the report, which professes neutrality, is anti-Israel. He said he has been harshly attacked by Arabs for calling for Four Power and United Nations guarantees of Israel's security. Also, he said, Arabs have argued against his acceptance of the need for "insubstantial alterations" of the pre-1967 war boundaries and the report's acknowledgement of the impracticality of having Israel fully repatriate all Arab refugees. Mann, on the other hand, scoffed at the notion that faith could be placed in UN and Big Power guarantees considering their ineffectiveness in preventing the last Israeli-Arab war.

He insisted that true peace includes normalization of relations between the two sides, which must begin with direct bargaining sessions on a peace settlement. Mann wondered rhetorically why, after gaining an indirectly negotiated, imposed settlement, the Arabs would "suddenly decide to normalize relationships." Mann said the Quaker study, which is published in paperback, fails to ascribe responsibility for the Six-Day War to the late Egyptian President Nasser, though Bolling, who said Nasser was not intent on a war, admitted that Nasser's foolish "brinkmanship" precipitated the clash. Mann claimed that by implying that Israel might have been the aggressor, the study justifies its demand that Israel comply with the UN resolution stipulating a return to the pre-war boundaries. Mann also denied what he claimed was an impression conveyed by the document that Israelis hate the Arabs as much as the Arabs hate the Israelis. Bolling replied that the work spoke of "hatred in the area" without specific references to Israelis hating Arabs. He apologized for any implication to that effect. Bolling said peace could only be assured with a U.S. military guarantee of Israel's existence. Peace won't come, he said, so long as Israel retains lands the Arabs want back. The goal of "Search for Peace in the Middle East" was to make proposals which would avoid "bloodshed," he said, adding that "Israel needs peace more than real estate." Mann responded: "The crucial question now is what kind of peace is worth more than real estate?" The Quaker's "kind of peace is no peace," he said.

### Lelyveld Tells Rogers Soviet Jews As National Group Entitled To VOA Yiddish Programs

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--The president of the American Jewish Congress complained to Secretary of State William P. Rogers today about a comment by a United States official Monday that for 20 years the State Department has not decided that Soviet Jews should receive Yiddish and Hebrew broadcasts over the Voice of America. Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld asked Rogers in a letter to "make clear to the American people and to the rulers of the Kremlin themselves that the United States recognizes the Jews of the USSR as constituting a national group," making them "entitled" to Yiddish and Hebrew broadcasts. Rabbi Lelyveld expressed "bewilderment and concern" over a comment by a U.S. official, reported in yesterday's JTA Daily News Bulletin, that Soviet Jewry did not constitute a national group and thus was not automatically entitled to such programming. The Jewish leader advised Rogers that such broadcasts would have "great symbolic as well as practical value, particularly for the hundreds of thousands of Russian Jews who have listed their mother tongue as Yiddish." They would also, he continued, serve as "a welcome and continuous reminder that the United States is deeply concerned with the rights of Soviet Jewry."

### Memorial To Six Million Jews Killed By Nazis Consecrated In Rhodesia

WARREN HILLS, Rhodesia, June 16 (JTA)--A memorial monument to the 6 million Jewish martyrs of World War II--an obelisk topped by a Star of David--was consecrated at the Jewish Cemetery here in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Salisbury and 150 Jews of three congregations. H.H. Gollop, chairman of the Mashonaland Committee of the Central African Jewish Board of Deputies, said it was "a murder memorial and not a war memorial," memorializing those who had been killed by the Nazis "purely and simply because they were Jews, and for no other reason." The inscription on the monument, in Hebrew and in English, reads: "In eternal and sacred memory of our martyred brethren, victims of the Nazi terror." Their names live for evermore." The City Council's Health, Housing and African Administration Committee had barred the phrase "victims of the Nazi terror," but the full City Council approved it following considerable Jewish protest.

### Beame Tells Jewish Leaders World Opinion On Soviet Jews Key To Future USSR Course

NEW YORK, June 16 (JTA)--The United States Ambassador to Russia, Jacob Beame, has reportedly stressed to Jewish leaders the importance of expressions of concern by European nations and European Communist parties about the condition of Soviet Jewry. Speaking Monday off the record to more than 20 top officers of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Beame said that world opinion on the issue of Soviet Jewry is a key factor in determining the future course of Soviet policy. He noted, too, that internal factors are also important in affecting Soviet treatment of Russian Jews. Representatives of the two Jewish umbrella organizations were said to have impressed upon Beame that the status of Soviet Jewry is not solely a Jewish problem, but a humanitarian issue of concern to many American religious and racial groups. Beame discussed recent representations made to the Kremlin by the United States and other governments, including Canada. He assured these attending the more than 90-minute meeting at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, that the issue of Soviet Jewry would continue to occupy an important place on the diplomatic agenda. Richard Mass, newly elected chairman of the Soviet Jewry Conference, chaired the off-the-record meeting.

