

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Council Of Oppressed Jewish Neighborhoods To Organize Grass Roots Jewish Power

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA)--Jews from all over the city met today to form a Council of Oppressed Jewish Neighborhoods which will try to use "Jewish power", especially voting power, to deal with problems such as poverty and reverse discrimination currently confronting Jews in this city. Rabbi Meir Kahane, head of the Jewish Defense League, told more than 70 people gathered at Congregation Adath Jeshurun in the Bronx that a movement of "grass-roots Jews" was needed to solve these and other problems which, he said, are neglected by governmental and established Jewish groups. JDL organized today's conference, but Kahane told reporters before the meeting that "we'll step out" once the Council is formed because it must represent the "general Jewish" population of the City. Addressing the conference, Rabbi Kahane said that Jews are told to "give a damn" about other minority groups, yet although Jews comprise the third largest poverty group in the city after Blacks and Puerto Ricans, "no one gives a damn about the Jewish poor." Echoing figures revealed recently before the Chicago chapter of the American Jewish Committee (and reported in the June 11 edition of the JTA Daily News Bulletin), Rabbi Kahane said there are close to 200,000 Jews in New York living at or below the poverty level of \$3,000 annual income.

But, he said, Jews get nowhere near their share of poverty funds from the City's Council Against Poverty. He noted large pockets of Jewish poor live in 12 of the city's 26 designated poverty areas. But, he claimed, Jews are represented on the official anti-poverty councils of only two neighborhoods. Rabbi Kahane charged that poor Jews are ineligible for loans from the Small Business Administration. Because of a scarcity of public money, he said, only Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Indians can get loans to start small businesses. "The WASP Establishment is trying to atone for their sins to Blacks on our backs," he said. Jews shouldn't get more than they deserve, Rabbi Kahane said, but not less either. He declared that Jews have been short-changed because they haven't "pushed" for their needs. The government and politicians are not "afraid of the Jew," according to him. Thus, he stated, Jews must organize politically on a community level. He said that beginning next week, a house to house canvassing will begin in 10 oppressed Jewish neighborhoods, including the South Bronx, Washington Heights, Southeast Queens, and Williamsburg, to register Jews in local Jewish groups. Rabbi Kahane said that nearly 500,000 Jews live in those areas.

The local organizations, which will have store front offices, will then advise its members which local politicians are best serving Jewish interests and which ones to vote out of office. Eventually, Rabbi Kahane said, groups will be set up in Jewish communities all over the metropolitan area. Because "we vote," he stated, the Jewish community can build a "power base" unlike that of any other ethnic or racial group. The new Council will be, Rabbi Kahane declared, the "Jewish address for Jewish problems" including the Jewish aged, deteriorating neighborhoods due to blockbusting, and the need for funds for Jewish education. He said no public money will be sought or accepted by the Council itself, but that "non-negotiable demands" would be made upon governmental agencies to financially support projects set up by the Council. He said the group's initial targets would be the City's Council Against Poverty and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies and that current SBA policies will be protested with sit-in demonstrations.

## Fisher Says There Has Been No Change In Basic Principles Of Nixon's Mideast Policy

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA)--Max Fisher, President Nixon's advisor on Jewish affairs and chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said here today that there has been no change in the basic principles of Nixon's Middle East policy of no imposed settlement and maintenance of the balance of power between Israel and her Arab foes. Fisher, here to attend the first Assembly of the reconstituted Jewish Agency which opens in Jerusalem tomorrow, had his last meeting with President Nixon two months ago. He refused to confirm or deny that he was carrying a letter from Nixon to Premier Golda Meir. He said he found Nixon "more sympathetic than anyone could expect" toward Israel, adding, "I can only wish Israel had some more friends like Nixon." Asked by newsmen if the White House was acting on behalf of Soviet Jews, Fisher, who campaigned for Nixon in 1968 replied, "things are being done but I cannot speak about them."

At a press conference in Jerusalem today, Jewish Agency chairman Louis Pincus said the Assembly would represent nearly 2.5 million Jews, the largest Jewish body ever set up. He said about 1.5 million consists of contributors to the various fund-raising appeals for Israel and another 900,000 represented the membership of the World Zionist Organization on the conclusion of the world-wide membership drive. Pincus stressed that for obvious reasons the 2.5 million did not include Israeli Jews or Jews from East European and other countries where the membership drive could not be conducted. He described the Jewish Agency's activities, apart from fund-raising, as immigration, settlement, youth aliyah, social welfare, housing, health, absorption, agriculture and education. Pincus announced that Dr. Israel Goldstein would retire next week as chairman of the Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal, having reached the age of 75. He said the World Confederation of General Zionists has nominated Ezra Shapiro of Cleveland, Ohio as his successor.

## JDC Reports Agency Helped Rehabilitate Some 300,000 Jews In 1970

NEW YORK, June 18 (JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee helped rehabilitate more than 300,000 Jews in 25 countries in 1970, at a cost of more than \$23 million, executive vice chairman Samuel L. Haber reported today. In his annual report, Haber declared that "Israel's concern with its very existence since 1967 has placed a continuing task on JDC to assume additional responsibilities in areas other

than that of the aged, handicapped and chronically ill immigrants." The JDC, which is largely funded by the United Jewish Appeal, performed 90 percent of its 1970 relief chores in Israel, Europe and the Moslem countries, where the "repercussions" of the Six-Day War were strongest, Haber said. JDC efforts in Israel, he continued, accounted for around 38 percent of the over-all budget -- nearly \$9 million -- and aided around 95,000 persons. Of that total, \$6.2 million went for JDC/Malben aid to the aged, ill and handicapped; more than \$1 million for subsidization of ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) vocational programs, and \$880,000 for support of religious institutions and cultural activities.

The principal project of JDC/Malben concerned its nine old-age homes and 100-bed geriatric hospital, which cared for 2,400 patients a month. In addition, JDC/Malben expanded its programs of subsidized or rent-free housing, health insurance, housekeeping help and day-care, involving 3,000 elderly persons and helped provide facilities to aid 6,000 handicapped children. In the religious and cultural areas last year, the JDC provided financial subsidies to 137 yeshivot with 18,750 students; relief grants to more than 500 refugee rabbis; subsidies for research and publication projects; teacher training; more than 100 scholarships and fellowships, and vocational training for more than 38,000 persons. In Europe, Haber went on, the JDC helped more than 164,000 Jews last year spending nearly \$3 million in Western Europe alone. Most of that aid, around \$1 million, went for the care of transmigrants, he said, with the next-largest sum having aided more than 55,000 members of the French Jewish population, the only Jewish community in Western Europe that has grown since the end of World War II--from 175,000 to around 550,000. "A very large share of the (French Jewish) increase is comprised of North African families who have added greatly to the demands for welfare and rehabilitation services, coming as they do from underdeveloped countries where the economic and social status often left much to be desired," Haber explained.

Eastern European programs of the JDC last year centered on Rumania, where the organization helped 17,000 needy Jews in the form of cash grants, winter and Passover aid, clothing and food packages and hot meals. Some 900 of Yugoslavia's 7,000 Jews were assisted by the JDC last year, plus another 80,000 under the "Relief-in-Transit" program. As for the Moslem countries, the JDC continued operations in Morocco, Tunisia and Iran in 1970, aiding around 43,000 Jews, Haber reported. He noted that while the last 80 Jewish prisoners in Egypt were set free last year and pressures on Jews in other Arab and Moslem lands were lessened, such pressures "have by no means totally disappeared" and Jews are in a precarious position in Syria and Iraq. As JDC chairman Louis Broido commented in an introduction to the Haber report, "The year 1970 brought no abatement in the demands made on JDC by our fellow Jews in areas of distress around the world." In another statement incorporated within Haber's report, Jack D. Weiler, chairman of the JDC National Council, said the organization's efforts were aimed at "strengthening the State of Israel by aiding in the solution of human problems and needs in Israel by assisting in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation of distressed Jews in other countries."

### Police Battle Striking Custom Officials; Hospital, Electric Power Workers Return

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA)--About 5000 government hospital employees and some 6000 electric power station workers were back on the job today after week-long strikes. But labor troubles continued to simmer on other fronts. Police battled striking customs officers at Ashdod this morning to force open the port gates for scores of trucks waiting to deliver or pick up cargo. Administrative personnel at non-government hospitals staged a four-hour work stoppage in support of the government hospital workers who were forced to end their walk-out Friday after the Cabinet invoked emergency back-to-work regulations. Meanwhile a revolt was brewing in the leftist Mapam faction whose rank-and-file objected angrily to their leadership's acquiescence in the government's action. The striking hospital employees--4000 management and service personnel and 1000 physicians--observed the back-to-work order issued Friday by Health Minister Victor Shemtov of Mapam following an emergency session of the Cabinet. But they did so with unconcealed bitterness. They have severed all contact with Ministry officials and with the Public Service Authority, the umbrella organization of Israel's civil service employees.

The electric power workers decided to halt their strike this morning only hours before the Cabinet was scheduled to act in that situation. They accepted assurances of speedy negotiations to iron out the complicated situation that developed when the government refused to endorse a new wage agreement they reached with the State-owned Israel Electric Corp. on grounds that it was inflationary. At Ashdod port, the scene of prolonged labor strife last year, dock foremen ended a work slow-down today. But the uniformed customs officers declared a strike for higher wages and locked the port gates as trucks queued up blocking traffic for hours. They refused to open the gates on the pretext that the port has to be closed when there are no customs officers on duty. Police intervened and a pitched battle ensued. The strike was suspended temporarily as the Finance Ministry sent a deputation to Ashdod for on-the-spot negotiations. Customs officers from Lydda and Jerusalem airports and Haifa will meet in Ashdod tomorrow to decide whether to strike in support of the local customs men.

The government was forced to take action in the hospital workers' strike to alleviate a rapidly deteriorating situation at 29 government hospitals. Conditions at the hospitals were described as chaotic and all but the most seriously ill patients were sent home last Tuesday. They were re-admitted Friday. The employees are demanding wage parity with the employees of non-governmental hospitals. The emergency regulations that forced them back to work were invoked only twice before -- against striking engineers and striking milkmen about two years ago. Although authorized under a civil law hospitals expressed sympathy for their colleagues and noted that the government takes action against an underpaid and weakly organized group but never against stronger elements of organized labor. The newspaper Al-Hamishmar, organ of Mapam, criticized the solution of labor disputes by emergency regulations and expressed regret that Shemtov was "forced" to implement the decision. Shemtov met Thursday night with other Mapam leaders and decided to go along with the government to avoid a cabinet crisis.

## Mrs. Meir Warns New War With Egypt Possible; Chides Israeli Peace Activists

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir warned today that a new war with Egypt was a possibility and predicted that it would end the same way as the last one -- with the enemy's defeat. Similar predictions were made Friday by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and Chief of Staff of Israel's Armed Forces Gen. Haim Bar Lev. Mrs. Meir, addressing Labor Zionist delegates gathered here for the opening tomorrow of the Jewish Agency Assembly, chided Israeli peace activists. She said their slogan, "Peace For Territories," was "superficial and simplistic," adding "I only wish it were that simple." Mrs. Meir asserted that "We do not want war, but the possibility exists that the Egyptians will launch one." Dayan, in an interview in Maariv, warned that unless some progress was made toward an interim settlement, there was a danger hostilities would be resumed. He stated that a partial agreement to reopen the Suez Canal was still possible and observed that new Soviet shipments to Egypt were dangerous because they bolstered Egypt's confidence in its military prowess. Dayan cautioned against confrontation with the Soviets noting that "It seems that they also are not jumping into a confrontation with us." Bar Lev, speaking to Israeli troops on the Golan Heights, told them to be "well prepared" for a possible renewal of fighting.

## Sisco Feels Cairo-Moscow Pact Only More Of Same In Terms Of Military Aid

WASHINGTON, June 20 (JTA)--The United States feels that so far the 15-year Egyptian-Soviet pact has not changed the Cairo-Moscow relationship, according to informed sources here. The sources said that the U.S. position was communicated several days ago to the leaders of the major Jewish organizations by Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian and Near Eastern Affairs. Sisco, said the informants, assessed the first treaty signed by the USSR and Egypt as so far representing only "more of the same" in terms of military aid, "not massive Soviet aid." The pact, Sisco was said to have reported, can eventually mean "very much or very little," depending on its implementation.

## Family of 11 Scheduled To Move Into New Quarters

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA)--Mordechai Reuven, his wife and their nine children are expected to move into a new seven room flat in the Katamon quarter within a week or two, but for the time being they are back in their one room quarters where, according to Reuven, three of their children became ill because of the over-crowded conditions, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today. The case of the Reuven's broke into the news two weeks ago when 30 Hebrew University students, mostly sociology majors, seized an empty flat in the fashionable Talpit suburb and moved the family in. Reuven, a \$245-a-month municipal employe, agreed to evacuate the flat which the Housing Ministry had reserved for new immigrants after he was promised better living quarters for his family. The JTA learned that no action was planned against the 30 students since the police were not required to intervene in the seizure episode.

The Reuven's new flat, a combination of two apartments, was provided by the Prazot Co., a firm in which the Jerusalem Municipality is the major shareholder. A. Margalit, a Prazot director, told the JTA that he had offered Reuven another apartment in Yir Ganim, a well-kept suburb, but that the offer was "refused." Reuven explained that he turned it down because it was only a three room flat that would not appreciably improve his family's living conditions. The Katamon flat, which he says is adequate, will cost the Reuven's \$19.60 a month rent. The Reuven case aroused interest here because it reflected a serious problem in which large, impoverished families live in squalid conditions while the Government provides large modern flats for immigrant families with only a few children.

## Report Three Egyptian Soldiers, Two Civilians Captured in Sinai

TEL AVIV, June 20 (JTA)--Increased Egyptian activity along the Suez Canal front was noted today in the disclosure by Israel that three Egyptian soldiers and two civilians were captured in the Sinai earlier this month. An official communique described the soldiers as a staff sergeant, a lance corporal and a private who crossed the canal in a rubber dinghy, apparently on an intelligence-gathering mission. The civilians were not identified. The group carried Kalashnikov rifles and two frogmen suits. Israel filed a complaint with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) today over another overflight of Israeli positions yesterday morning by two Egyptian Sukhoi-7 fighter-bombers. It was the second such overflight reported this month. As in the previous incident, Israeli anti-aircraft guns opened fire.

## Vigil At Soviet Mission On Behalf Of Fathers Whose Children Are In Soviet Jails

NEW YORK, June 20 (JTA)--Five men picketed peacefully in front of the Soviet United Nations Mission for 90 minutes today in what Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, described as a symbolic "Fathers' Day" vigil in behalf of the Jewish fathers in the Soviet Union whose children are imprisoned for facing trial. The pickets carried signs demanding freedom for the nine Jews expected to go on trial tomorrow in Kishinev.

## Jerusalem Quarter Housing Large Families Renamed In Honor Of Sir Isaac Wolfson

JERUSALEM, June 20 (JTA)--The Shmuel Hanavi quarter of Jerusalem which just underwent a \$350,000 face-lifting to mollify its inhabitants who complained of squalid living conditions, was officially renamed Kiryat Wolfson in honor of the Anglo-Jewish philanthropist Sir Isaac Wolfson, at ceremonies today. The ceremonies were attended by Sir Isaac, Premier Golda Meir and several Cabinet members, including Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir who told the gathering that Sir Isaac contributed \$7.2 million to Israel during the last few years. The \$350,000 to patch up the quarter was provided by the United Jewish Appeal. The money was used to rehabilitate the houses and to build a new kindergarten and a small park. The quarter is inhabited by large families, mostly of North African and Asian origin. About 10,000 people live in 1500 flats.

