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Kishinev Trial Begins; Palatnik Trial To Start; Kukul Given Three Years In Prison

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA)--The trial of nine Jews in Kishinev began today and the trial of Roiza Palatnik is scheduled to start tomorrow or Wednesday in Odessa, according to Jewish sources. The same sources reported that Valeriy Kukul of Sverdlovsk has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment. The trial of Miss Palatnik, who has been held incommunicado since last Dec. 1 on charges of anti-Soviet "slander," will take place in a relatively low court. The prosecution has reportedly invited 16 witnesses, among them her sister, Katya, and her niece, Sonya. According to the sources, the trial is expected to last three days. The Jewish sources identified the Presiding Judge as Kotenko, the Peoples' Judges as Yikimenco, a teacher, and Goncharenko, "hero of the Soviet Union." The prosecutor was identified as Tipunova, and Miss Palatnik's defense attorney as Poltoratski. No first names were available. The nine Kishinev Jews on trial have been identified as: David Chernoglas, Aleksander Galperin, Gari Kirshner, Arkady Voloshin, David Rabinovich, Abraham Trakhtenberg, Semcoia Levit, Hillel Shur and Anatoly Goldfeld.

Jewish sources also reported that 32 of the 70 Jews of Wilna who recently sat in at the Lithuanian Communist Party headquarters to demand an explanation why their applications for emigration permits were being arbitrarily delayed, assembled Friday in the office of the Communist Party in Moscow. They were received by the director of the office and asked him to grant them permission to leave the Soviet Union. They were reportedly told that six applications will be examined but that emigration permits will be refused for the others. The sources reported that the 32 Wilna Jews were warned by the director that they would have to leave Moscow and return immediately to Wilna or they might be charged with illegal stay in the Soviet capital and arrested. Kukul was arrested on March 17 after he and a number of other Jews from Sverdlovsk had signed a letter of protest to Soviet leaders against the harsh verdicts handed down in the first Leningrad trial last Dec. Miss Palatnik's trial was repeatedly delayed because of her refusal to cooperate with the interrogators and because of her lengthy hunger strike.

Agreement On Reconstituted Jewish Agency Signed; Pincus Stresses Rescue Of Jews

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA)--The agreement on the reconstitution of the Jewish Agency--with half the Executive to be composed of non-Zionists--was signed here today. The founding assembly of the enlarged Agency began at the Convention Center tonight. In his keynote speech, Agency chairman Louis A. Pincus declared that "the first and foremost of the tasks that confront us is the rescue of Jews from countries of distress." He added that "the rescue of those Jews who are left in the Arab countries is literally a matter of life and death." The Agency's work in absorbing immigrants has had "magnificent" results, Pincus said, and their arrival is "a great blessing for Israel." But now, he said, "things have reached the danger point," and what is required is "thought, pioneering, experiment and above all love of Israel, pure and simple." Not to be forgotten, he noted, is "the heroic struggle of the Soviet Jews for the right to immigrate to Israel," which must be "the concern of every Jew and every free man wherever he be."

Pincus asserted in his keynote address that the Jewish Agency bears "the direct burden of responsibility with all it implies," and that "if, God forbid, the funds we raise fall short of needs, it will be you who make the agonizing decision as to which vital service will be cut." The chairman concluded: "We are entering into this partnership at a time when no signs of peace are discernible...when Russia is deepening her influence and involvement in the region...Let us prove worthy of the responsibility that history has imposed upon us." In a related development, Dr. Israel Goldstein formally stepped down last night after 10 years as world chairman of the Keren Hayesod, the United Israel Appeal. Dr. Goldstein, who was 75 last Friday, is succeeded by Ezra Z. Shapiro, 68, a lawyer and communal leader of Cleveland, O., who will relocate in Israel. Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, was nominated to the Jewish Agency Executive.

Growing Tensions Between Congregations, Rabbis Threaten Future Synagogue Life

ST. LOUIS, Mo., June 21 (JTA)--Members of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform Judaism) were told today that growing tensions between congregations and their rabbis threaten the future of synagogue life in America. Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of Boston, president of the CCAR, and Rabbi David Polish of Evanston, Ill., incoming president, told the opening session of the 82nd annual meeting of the Conference that the time has come for laymen to end "unwarranted assault and denigration within our synagogues" as they issued a call for remedial action. Although the problem has received considerable attention in Christianity, with regard to relations between ministers and priests and their congregants, this is the first time the issue has been openly discussed in Judaism in this country. Both rabbis placed equal blame upon rabbis and lay leaders. Rabbi Gittelsohn said rabbis are known to have been "arrogant, abusive and unforgivably contemptuous toward their congregants, and some act as if congregations exist chiefly for the gratification and fulfillment of their egos." Both rabbis attacked lay leaders for fostering what they said was becoming a national scandal that, if unchecked, could corrode not only the rabbinate but congregations as well.

The harassment and tyrannization of rabbis at the hands of lay leaders who have jeopardized, and sometimes shattered, their tenures and threatened, and sometimes destroyed, the careers of their rabbis, will drive able men out of the rabbinate and validate the cynicism of their critics, the rabbis added. "If this is what American Jewry wants, this is what it will get--craven, mediocre, servile persons who will dutifully preside at the burial services of American Jewry," Rabbi Polish observed. One of the major factors in the developing rift, according to the speakers, is a growing challenge of

rabbi by laymen on interpretation of religious law. Other factors are the drifting of Jewish youth away from the synagogue--seen as leading to the mounting incidence of intermarriage in which the rabbi is charged with lessening influence and authority; the economic recession that has caused many laymen to question the continuing validity of some congregational problems, and the decline of urban congregations and the effect on religious school registration, which is viewed as a portent of a future filled with near-vacant synagogues and temples.

Rabbs Gittelsohn and Polish called for a special committee to consult with the major institutions of American Reform Judaism--the CCAR, Union of American Hebrew Congregations (congregational body of Reform Judaism) and the Hebrew Union College--Jewish Institute of Religion (seminary)--to develop a program for preventing lay-rabbinic conflict, possibly with direct involvement between rabbi and congregations, "before the atmosphere has become contaminated beyond redemption." The rabbi also urged "that before any congregation is panelled for a pulpit vacancy it be required to hold a seminar with one or more members of the Commission, concentrating on the specific needs of that congregation and the priority of criteria to be followed in search for a new rabbi; that the UAHC enact disciplinary measures against congregations found to be unethical or unfair in their treatment of rabbi--including expulsion from the Union as a final resort--and that by the same token the Conference undertake to counsel and discipline rabbi found to violate professional and moral responsibilities toward their congregations; and that the CCAR and the Placement Commission refuse to offer rabbinic services to any congregation which has flagrantly violated its responsibilities to a previous rabbi." "In the last analysis," they declared, "no one will firmly respect our rabbinic rights if we do not do so ourselves."

Jewish Student Groups Receive \$16,000 From Federation Of Jewish Agencies

PHILADELPHIA, June 21 (JTA)--Grants totaling almost \$16,000 have been made by the Federation of Jewish Agencies Commission on Campus Affairs to three separate Greater Philadelphia Jewish student activities. Saul J. Freedman, Commission chairman who made the announcement today, said grants involved the Jewish Free University, the Makom cultural center and coffee-house and a Jewish Studies program at Bryn Mawr College. The Jewish Free University received \$7,250 from Federation to expand its programs started last year. Makom will receive \$5,000 to support its program and will relate to Federation's Jewish Ys and Centers for program consultation, guidance and for office clerical services. Bryn Mawr College will receive \$3,500 as "seed" money for accelerating a program of courses in Jewish Thought and Hebrew to be taught by Dr. Samuel T. Lachs. Students at Haverford and Swarthmore colleges also will be attending these courses. The Jewish Free University was formed to help reawaken Jewish identity in today's college generation. The program proved extremely successful and wound up with a registration of 230 students in 18 courses. The monies will be used to expand the participation of students at Temple University and at nearby suburban colleges.

Makom, established by Jewish students and other young adults as a Jewish cultural center and coffee-house in center city, conducts regular activities that include experimental and creative services, folk and Israeli music, and other Jewish cultural programs. The program taught by Dr. Lachs offers courses in Jewish studies with Hebrew as the indispensable tool. The Jewish Agencies Commission, which established objectives to help create, develop and support activities sponsored by Jewish students and faculty to strengthen Jewish life, commitment, identity and survival, includes students, faculty, FJA members, Hillel representatives and members from the Jewish community at large. The Federation has allocated \$50,000 to the Commission from which grants are to be made during the next year for innovative Jewish student and faculty programs on campuses.

ADL Postpones Soviet Exhibit, Disruption Feared; Pickets Say No Disruption Intended

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA)--The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said today that it was "postponing, not cancelling" an exhibit on Soviet Jewry that was scheduled to open tonight at its headquarters here. An ADL spokesman claimed the postponement until next week was necessitated because certain groups, according to her, had announced they would disrupt the exhibit. The groups, the spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, are the Jewish Liberation Project, a Socialist-Zionist young adult organization, and the Jewish Defense League. The spokesman stated further that the ADL postponed the exhibit in order not to subject visitors to "disruption and violence," and that the exhibit next week will be by invitation only. A spokesman for the JLP said it had not threatened either to disrupt or to indulge in any violence. "Our demonstration was called to conduct peaceful picketing outside, not inside, the building," he stated. He told the JTA that the group welcomed the Soviet exhibit but that the ADL "is coming too late with too little," explaining that the plight of Soviet Jewry has not been a "top priority" undertaking by the ADL.

The JLP spokesman said that the group's scheduled demonstration was to focus on three elements: the role of the ADL in Philadelphia in identifying leaders of the JDL to the FBI; the "smearing" of grass-roots medical organizations calling for community control of hospitals and thus allegedly inciting anti-Semitism; and the "show case" nature of the "taken" Soviet exhibit. The JLP spokesman said the ADL's "informing" on the JDL constituted "spying on Jews for the FBI," adding: "Although we are opposed to the JDL's right-wing politics, what is at issue here is the action of a Jewish establishment organization as an active collaborator with those who seek to suppress dissent." The JLP statement also protested the ADL's "defamation of radical health groups," a reference to the ADL's charges, dating back to January, that such groups as the Health Revolutionary Unity Movement and the (Puerto Rican) Young Lords threatened the city with "turmoil, disruption, instability and lower professional standards." Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the JDL, told a JTA reporter that his group had no intention of participating in the demonstration. "This is strictly a JLP demonstration and we have told our members to stay away," Rabbi Kahane said. The ADL spokesman stated: "We question the nature of any group which seeks to disrupt a bona fide exhibit on Soviet Jewry. We have fought extremists for too long to be intimidated by extremist groups now."

Commission Of Inquiry To Take Testimony On Treatment Of Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA)--An appeal to the Kremlin on behalf of Soviet Jewry, signed by three top Soviet scientists and smuggled out of the Soviet Union by a United States Congressman, will be entered in evidence tomorrow to a prestigious "Commission of Inquiry," that will hear testimony on the treatment of Soviet Jews. The Commission, which will hold an all-day hearing at the Carnegie Endowment International Center, will be chaired by Bayard Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. The appeal accuses the Soviet authorities of "illegal actions in hindering the free departure of people from the Soviet Union--specifically, the free repatriation of Jews to Israel." It scores the Soviet government's "unexplained and arbitrary refusals to grant visas" and its use of "red tape" that "has no basis in law," and calls for pardons for Soviet Jews charged with "anti-Soviet activity."

The three scientists--none of them Jewish--are Andrei Sakharov, nuclear physicist and head of the Soviet Committee for Human Rights, and A. Tverdokhlebov and Valery Chelidze, leading physicists and co-founders of the Committee. The appeal was smuggled out of the USSR by Rep. Bertram L. Podell, a Jewish Democrat of Brooklyn, who recently visited major Soviet cities. The Soviet scientists further declare: "Zionism is portrayed in the (Soviet) press as an anti-Communist and anti-Soviet trend, yet the concerns of Zionism are entirely national. One can only admire the persistence of an ancient and persecuted people who in very difficult conditions have resurrected a long-vanished State. It is precisely such rebirth and elimination of the tragic consequences of dispersion for the Jewish people that constitute the goal of Zionism. The charge of anti-Soviet activity against those seeking repatriation is ridiculous."

Arab Bus Drivers Halt Work; Were Warned Of Violence By Terrorists

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA)--Gaza Strip transportation was severely affected yesterday when 26 of the 30 local Arab bus drivers employed by the Egged bus cooperative suddenly quit their jobs. They acted under pressure from Arab terrorists, who warned them of violence against them and their families if they did not leave the Israeli-owned company. The drivers said the terrorists explained that by working for the bus company, the drivers were freeing Israelis for Army service. Egged may try to recruit Israeli Arabs or West Bank drivers to man its Gaza buses, which are used for both internal transportation and runs between Israel proper and the Strip.

First Cholera Case Reported This Year; Patient Is Arab From Hebron

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA)--The year's first cholera case was diagnosed here today. The patient is a 23-year-old Arab from Hebron. The Israeli health authorities were uncertain of the origin of the case. Last year there were 485 cholera cases in Israel and in the occupied Arab territories--105 Jews and 380 Arabs--with four of them fatal. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today from very reliable Health Ministry sources that there have been outbreaks of cholera in at least two neighboring Arab states, which were said to be concealing their cases--in violation of World Health Organization rules--so as not to discourage tourism. But Dr. Daniel Brachott, head of the Health Ministry's infectious diseases department, told the JTA that WHO will henceforth list cholera cases without reliance on governmental reports.

Hanna Meron In Triumphant Return To Stage

TEL AVIV, June 21 (JTA)--Hanna Meron, Israel's leading actress, made a triumphant return to the stage here last night in "Medea"--two years after one of her legs was amputated following a terrorist attack on an El Al plane at the Munich airport. She had thought her career was ended, but last night Cabinet ministers, Knesset members, Army officers and Israeli theatergoers applauded her wildly. The critics cheered too.

International Symposium Sponsored By Weizmann Institute Scheduled Next Week

BRUSSELS, June 21 (JTA)--Prominent scientists from Europe, Israel and the United States will participate in an international symposium June 28 and 29 at the Palais de Congress to discuss "The Impact of Science on Society." Initiated at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, the symposium is under the auspices of the European Committee of the Weizmann Institute. Subjects to be discussed include: advances and potential as well as the dangers of science for the progress of mankind; the challenge of the impending technological future to the capacity of the human family to meet it; and the ethics of responsibility for scientists and their role as the conscience of technology. Meanwhile, Maurice M. Boukstein, chairman of the Weizmann Institute of Science Executive Council, announced that Prof. Israel Dostrovsky has accepted the post of vice-president of the Institute. Dr. Dostrovsky, who for the past six years has served as chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission on leave from the Weizmann Institute, succeeds Prof. Michael Sela who has returned to his research as the head of the Institute's Chemical Immunology Department and Dean of its Biology Faculty.

Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation 25th Agency To Join Conference Of Presidents

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA)--The Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation has become the 25th national agency to join the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said that the adherence of the Reconstructionist body would "add a vital and significant voice of Jewish life to our deliberations and activities." Dr. Wexler noted the tributes paid last week to Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist movement, on his 90th birthday, and said that the participation of representatives of the Reconstructionist Foundation in the Presidents Conference would "strengthen still further the role and reputation of the Presidents Conference as the authentic 'central address' for the American Jewish community in dealing with international Jewish concern." Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation president, said his organization looked forward to playing an active role in the work of the Presidents Conference.

