

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Annual Loss Of \$30 Million To Jewish Day Schools Seen In High Court Ban

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)—The unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruling today against almost all forms of governmental aid to non-public schools poses the prospect of an annual loss in such aid to Jewish day schools, in one area alone, totalling at least \$30 million, according to a preliminary and informal estimate by a spokesman for a national agency for such schools. In the 9 to 0 decision on cases from Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, initiated and argued by the American Jewish Congress, the Supreme Court declared that such aid would foster "an excessive government entanglement with religion." The Rhode Island cases involved a 15 percent wage supplement to teachers of secular subjects in parochial schools. In the Pennsylvania cases, the High Court reversed a lower court ruling which had upheld the constitutionality of the state's purchase-of-services formulas. The High Court also held that public aid to private schools would have "divisive political potential," a view repeatedly advanced by the AJCongress in its fight against such government aid, and reiterated today by the organization's legal counsel in commenting on the Supreme Court decision.

The spokesman for Torah Umesorah, the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools, an Orthodox agency, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that his preliminary estimate was based on an average of \$350 to \$400 per pupil now provided annually in "purchase-of-service" financial aid by states, multiplied by some 75,000 pupils in Jewish day schools in the United States. He also indicated that an initial evaluation of the Supreme Court ruling indicated the possibility that much, if not most, of the federal aid provided under a variety of programs might be imperiled by the ruling today, as well as other forms of state aid to non-public schools.

### Court Rejects State Aid For Payment Of Secular Teachers

In the Rhode Island cases, the Supreme Court ruled that teachers—unlike textbooks for which such aid was permitted in the 1968 Allen cases—would not be inspected and kept under strict control. The Court said it could not assume that such teachers could segregate their religious beliefs from their secular teachings and that "a potential for impermissible fostering of religion is present." In the Pennsylvania cases, the High Court held that three tests must be applied to public aid to private schools: the legislation must be totally secular in purpose; must have neither "primary nor principal" effect in advancing or inhibiting religion; and must not foster "excessive government entanglement with religion." The Court ruled 5 to 4 in another action that the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963 was constitutional, except for the provision limiting religious-use restrictions to 20 years. That provision allowed for public aid for construction of facilities at church-related colleges if the facilities were not used for religious purposes for 20 years.

Comment from Jewish spokesmen followed the split which has divided Orthodox and non-Orthodox-liberal Jewish opinion on the issue. Julius Berman, president of the National Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA) and Nathan Lewin, COLPA vice-president, told the JTA in a joint statement that "The American Jewish Congress and its counsel, Leo Pfeffer, instituted these cases and are largely responsible for this result. They now have the obligation to make sure the Jewish community can take care of its own schools. At least they ought now to turn around and support the day schools," most of which are under Orthodox auspices. They expressed the view that the ruling meant that "only narrow areas will be permissible, requiring an in-depth analysis of present legislation in New York and Maryland" on such aid. The other cases considered by the Court involved school aid programs in New Jersey and South Carolina. The Court ordered those states to consider its rulings today.

### Supporters Call On Federations To Make Up Prospective Losses

The decisions were called "tragic" by Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, Torah Umesorah director of school organization, who called on the Jewish Federations and welfare funds which "fought so vigorously against federal and state aid" to "apply the same sort of vigor and the same intensive energy to make sure to obtain support for the Hebrew day schools." Noting that such schools were "caught in a tremendous financial bind," he said "fighting against aid is negative. Guaranteeing the schools' future and the educational quality of the Jewish community is positive. Unless the community acts," he warned, "Hebrew day schools may become fewer in number and essentially a haven for the rich." Rabbi Moshe Sherer, executive president of Agudath Israel, another Orthodox organization, called the ruling "a keen disappointment to everyone who has been struggling to achieve equal educational choice for all citizens." He said he hoped New York state's school aid program, with its "better facets," would not be effected. He said Agudath Israel would "research new areas of legislation" that would not "contravene" the Court's decisions.

The president of the AJCongress, Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, said the Court's decision "re-emphasizes the responsibility of the Jewish community to maintain its system of education" and that the AJCongress "calls on Jewish Federations and welfare funds, as we have called in the past, to increase their financial support of Jewish education of every kind and at every level." He declared that, with the Court's decision, "the controversies and quarrels are over" and that every segment of the Jewish community "must now join hands to make sure that Jewish education will not suffer for lack of funds."

Pfeffer said that the "landmark decision" had averted "the annual lobbying effort to tax funds that would have pitted religious group against religious group and private institution against public interest." He interpreted the decision as a Supreme Court view that "it is not possible to separate secular education from the religious atmosphere which properly permeates a parochial school." He said the decision would "strengthen religious liberty for it assures the American citizen that his tax funds may not be used to support a religion in which he does not believe."

## Report Israeli Visit Of Russ Newsmen Was On Question Of Diplomatic Ties

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA)--The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable sources today that the recent visit to Israel of Victor Louis, a Russian journalist known to carry out missions for Soviet authorities, was for the purpose of probing Israel's willingness to remove its relations with Moscow from the deep freeze in which they have languished since the June, 1967 Six-Day War. Despite emphatic denials by the Foreign Ministry that any such contacts have occurred, the JTA learned that a request by Louis for an audience with Premier Golda Meir was the subject of deliberations by the Cabinet's defense committee. Its decision was to let Louis see Mrs. Meir's political adviser, Simcha Dinitz, a close confidant of the Premier in whom she has unlimited trust. The committee's reason for rejecting a direct meeting was unclear but sources said it was because the ministers feared a "leak" to the news media which might be "misinterpreted," the JTA learned. There were no details available of Louis' talk with Dinitz.

Louis, 47, is Moscow correspondent of the London Daily Mail. He arrived at Lydda Airport from Helsinki via Cyprus on June 13 bearing a Soviet service passport, the kind issued only to persons traveling on official business. According to the newspaper Yediot Achronot he was met at the airport by Foreign Ministry officials who whisked him away in a car. The Foreign Ministry denied the whole affair until today when it issued a long statement asserting that Louis applied for and was granted a visa to come to Israel for health reasons. The Ministry statement said he remained in the country for one week in the middle of June during which time he met with several acquaintances who had served at the Israeli Embassy in Moscow before diplomatic relations were broken. The Ministry statement admitted that Dinitz was one of the people Louis met but insisted that Louis had "no official standing whatsoever nor did he claim to have any." The Ministry statement added that "consequently the conversations with him did not bear the character of negotiations and the reports alleging that negotiations between the Israel government and the Soviet government have taken place or are taking place are without foundation."

Observers here were quick to point out that the Ministry was denying something nobody claimed, namely that negotiations were going on between Israel and Russia or that Louis was here in a governmental or any other capacity. According to Yediot Achronot, Louis checked into the Samuel Hotel in Tel Aviv under his own name and made several visits to Jerusalem. The paper said he left Israel on the night of June 18-19 and newsmen at the airport claimed that he was seen off by a Foreign Ministry official. A Ministry spokesman claimed today that a check of the report failed to turn up any such official. The claim that Louis came to Israel for health reasons seemed to have a grain of truth inasmuch as he visited Dr. Arieh Harel, director of the Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv. Dr. Harel served as Israel's Ambassador to Moscow between 1959-61 and had made Louis' acquaintance there. Observers here regard as significant Foreign Minister Abba Eban's statement after Louis' visit that Israel desired to reestablish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Eban has made three such statements so far but was careful to declare each time that while Israel was willing, no approaches had been made from the Soviet side. When asked by the JTA June 22 whether "in view of recent reports on Israel-Soviet contacts there is more than meets the eye," Eban replied, "No, but what meets the eye is there." Louis reportedly left Israel via an El Al flight to Budapest. The JTA learned from reliable sources today that the Louis visit was preceded over several months by visits to Israel of European Jewish Communist leaders who came here ostensibly as tourists but in fact carefully probed Israel's position with regard to renewed diplomatic ties with Moscow.

## Time Says Formal Israel-Soviet Meeting Set On Renewal Of Ties

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)--Time magazine claimed in its current issue that a formal meeting will take place soon between Israel and Soviet Russia with a view to re-establishing diplomatic relations broken by Moscow during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Soviet sources at the United Nations said Friday that it was "unthinkable" that the Soviet Union would consider renewing diplomatic relations with Israel before Israel withdrew completely from the occupied Arab territories. Time magazine claimed nevertheless that "The Soviet overtures toward Israel appear to be part of a pattern. Stung that the U.S. has maneuvered itself into the position of the indispensable middleman in the Middle East peace negotiations, Moscow is anxious to demonstrate that without its participation and blessing, any moves toward an Arab-Israeli settlement are futile." According to Time, "U.S. officials agree that without the Soviets, further peace talks are pointless" and that "at a suitable time Washington intends to invite the Soviets into discussions on reopening the Suez Canal."

## State Dept. Denies Report Of Formal Proposal To Egypt On Suez Interim Moves

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Charles Bray denied today that the United States had formally presented Egypt with a proposal for an Israeli withdrawal from approximately half of the Sinai Peninsula, an Egyptian crossing of the Suez Canal and the placement of a United Nations force as a buffer between the opposing sides. Answering newsmen's questions about a column by Joseph Kraft in Sunday's Washington Post, Bray said: "Mr. Bergus presented no U.S. government or Israeli proposals on the substance of an interim agreement on the Suez Canal to the UAR." The role that both parties had asked the U.S. to play, he added, was to help "reconcile their differences." Bray said Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin has been in touch with Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco and that no misunderstanding exists between the parties at this time.

A senior State Department official said Bergus had handed the Egyptians his own personal suggestions in an informal memo that was, and is, without official U.S. government standing. Despite previous statements by U.S. officials that American proposals have been made to both sides, the State Department aide said the Israeli government had no knowledge of the informal piece of paper Bergus left with Egyptian leaders. The Cairo government, the State Department official added, knows that Bergus' memo has no official status; but he could not say if that had been made clear to the Egyptians from the start. According to Kraft, a political columnist, Bergus left his "phantom memo" with the Egyptians on May 23, then on June 3 suggested to Mohammed Hassan el Helkal, the influential editor of the authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahran, that a formal reply be forthcoming. Kraft added that on June 4, Foreign

Minister Mahmoud Riad delivered an Egyptian reply, and that on June 6 Bergus transmitted that reply to Secretary of State William P. Rogers in Paris. State Department officials would neither confirm nor deny Kraft's time sequence. One of them added that Bergus, who is due to return to Cairo, is "a highly respected, experienced diplomat."

### NY Doctors Group Formed To Obtain Medical Aid For Ruth Aleksandrovich

NEW YORK, June 28 (JTA)--A New York Physicians' Ad Hoc Committee on Soviet Jewry was formed here today in an attempt to obtain medical aid for Ruth Aleksandrovich, the Jewish nurse completing a one-year term in Riga for "anti-Soviet activities." The Committee's creation was inspired by a June 18 press conference here, attended by the prisoner's mother, Mrs. Rivka Aleksandrovich, at which six kidney specialists said the daughter's condition was probably "serious," considering that her personal physician was worried about her health last October and that she has been poorly cared for since. At the press conference, under the auspices of B'nai B'rith, an official of that organization said action to aid Miss Aleksandrovich would be taken immediately. A B'nai B'rith spokesman said today that the formation of the Physicians' Committee 12 days later represented "unusually quick action."

The Committee will ask President Nixon and the United Nations Secretary General Thant to intervene personally on Miss Aleksandrovich's behalf "on humanitarian grounds"; transmit pleas to the World Health Organization in Geneva and to top Soviet doctors for permission to visit the prisoner in jail, and ask all American doctors to act similarly. The Committee will function in coordination with the Medical and Dental Section of the Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists of the Rephael Society, a Jewish doctors' organization. Heading the Committee is Dr. Ira Greifer, director of pediatrics at the Hospital of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and director of the National Kidney Foundation, who presented the kidney specialists' report at the June 18 press conference.

### Knesset Gets \$350 Million Plan For Slum Clearance, Better Housing

JERUSALEM, June 28 (JTA)--A five year slum clearance and housing improvement plan that will cost the government \$350 million was announced to the Knesset today by Housing Minister Zeev Sharef. Sharef said the program, to commence in April, 1972, would effect 47,000 Israeli families presently living in deteriorated housing. The program was approved by the Cabinet yesterday. Sharef's announcement was made against a background of rising clamor and mass demonstrations by slum dwellers for subsidized housing. Over the past few weeks modern flats earmarked for immigrants from Western countries or the Soviet Union have been forcibly occupied by slum families with large numbers of children. Hundreds of young couples and large families have accused the authorities of housing discrimination.

Sharef said the five year program would concentrate on improving the living conditions of persons living in dangerous or unsanitary quarters and families whose members live more than three to a room. He said the government would build 16,000 new dwelling units and would renovate and enlarge existing units through loans and grants. The Housing Minister expressed hope that Jewish investors and builders from overseas would help build new rental housing in Israel. He appeared to be directing his plea to several Jewish builders who were among the delegates to the founding conference of the re-constituted Jewish Agency. The Ministry however has rejected proposals by a New York investment group to build one-story pre-fabricated houses to help ease the shortage of living quarters. The group said the houses could be erected within 32 hours and that they have built thousands of such homes in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Argentina. The proposed pre-fabs would have two bedrooms and should cost about \$8,000 apiece. Each additional bedroom would cost about \$2,000. One reason given for the Ministry's rejection of the plan was the high cost of land. The Ministry prefers to build high rise dwellings on small parcels of land.

### State Dept. Reports Harassment Of U.S. Diplomats In Moscow, Cites JDL

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--State Department officials said today that American diplomats in Moscow have received harassing telephone calls and have been under very close surveillance, probably in retaliation for recent Jewish Defense League harassment of Soviet diplomats in Washington and New York. According to the State Department, Washington area police forces have increased their patrols of diplomat's homes. Despite such patrols, the picture window in the home of Vladislav V. Shimanovsky, an attaché at the Soviet Embassy, was broken Sunday for the second time in three days. The window was broken by an object wrapped in a note "Never Again." Yesterday's window breaking took place as police were processing the last of the 34 arrests from the Jewish Identity Week demonstration. Twenty-one adults and 13 juveniles were arrested. Twenty-one persons were charged with disorderly conduct and 13 with demonstrating within 500 feet of an embassy. Two juveniles and three adults were also charged with illegal entry after they jumped over the Soviet Embassy gate. The adults arrested for illegal entry had to post a \$350 bond.

Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the JDL, told the JTA that he was able to get a bondsman only through his "good friend," Joe Colombo. (Colombo was shot and critically wounded at an Italian-American Civil Rights rally in New York City today.) At the rally before the demonstration, Yossi Templeman gave lessons in harassing the Russians. He suggested that Washington residents follow Soviet diplomats and wear signs "The man in front of me is a Russian tyrant." He also suggested talking to the diplomats and visiting and calling them at their homes "sometime after work, about 2 or 3 in the morning." He said that anyone interested in the unlisted address or telephone number of Soviet officials in the Washington area should contact the Student Activists for Soviet Jewry which would provide a free list. State Department officials said they did not anticipate the lessons would be taken seriously.

### Israel Declines Comment On Report Of Raid On Lebanon Border Village

TEL AVIV, June 28 (JTA)--Israeli military spokesmen declined to comment today on a Beirut report that an Israeli raiding party entered Lebanon yesterday and demolished three houses in a border village. Israel forces uncovered a large arms cache in an Arab village near Tulkarem yesterday.

## Muskie, Clarifying Stand, Says U.S. Must Back Israel's Border Demands

WASHINGTON, June 28 (JTA)--Declaring that he hoped to put to rest "the occasional doubts about where I stand" on the issue of Israel and the Middle East, Maine's Democratic Sen. Edmund S. Muskie told an audience in Denver, Colo., over the weekend that he deeply "felt Israel's urgent, moral claim on our (American) support, not merely the support of our words, but the support of our deeds." Referring to his visit to Israel and the Mideast last January, Muskie said he had "learned again a stark and simple truth--that the security of Israel is closely related to the security of the United States."

Excerpts from Sen. Muskie's remarks were released today by his office here. According to Dick Stewart, a Muskie aide, the Senator who recent polls say is the front-runner for the Democratic Presidential nomination in 1972, addressed a private group of about 300 Jews at the home of Marvin Davis, a wealthy Denver Jew who is raising funds for the Muskie campaign. The Maine Senator who was the Democratic Vice Presidential candidate in 1968, said "It is no longer enough--and it never was enough--to rely on the diplomacy of mere reaction to Russian power politics in the Middle East. What may seem details of diplomacy to us may be matters of survival for Israel. Both our policy and our strength must remain constant--so Israel can become as certain of our support as she is of her own resolution."

Muskie said the U.S. "must back Israel's demand for defensible borders" and must give Israel the right to determine her own fate. "The great powers should help--but they cannot decide. A lasting peace will result only from negotiations by the parties directly involved. And the United States must do nothing to undermine Israel's bargaining position," Muskie said. Furthermore, he added, "Though we hope as much as Israel for a permanent peace, we must also assure Israel of enough power to deter renewed war. The right aim is to stop the arms race in the Middle East. But arms control on one side and arms increase on the other will only tighten the tensions and encourage bloodshed and violence. That would threaten our own security--and that is another reason why we must secure the strength of Israel," Muskie said.

## NJCRC Joins CJF And JWB In Study Of Security Needs Of Urban Jews

ATLANTA, June 28 (JTA)--The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council is engaged in a collaborative effort with the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the National Jewish Welfare Board in a study to determine the security and socio-economic problems that affect Jews in urban centers. delegates to the organization's annual plenary meeting were told here last night at the closing session. The inquiry is seeking to determine information about the physical safety of Jews, the needs of Jewish merchants in violence-prone areas, the incidence of crime and vandalism affecting synagogues or other Jewish institutions and the special problems of elderly Jews, the NJCRAC said. In a policy statement adopted by the nine national organizations and the 90 local community councils affiliated with the NJCRAC, the agency recommended that organized efforts be made by the heavily suburban Jewish communities for more active involvement in programs to restore the viability of the nation's troubled cities. The statement proposed that Jewish groups participate in forging coalitions of "disadvantaged minorities, apprehensive 'ethnics' and suburbanites" as a political force to compel federal and state governments to initiate reforms that could "rescue our cities." "The suburbs cannot survive the collapse of the cities," the NJCRAC statement said. "Their affluence is dependent on the cities. Their peace cannot be secured against spreading disorder and crime." The statement cautioned that while mass violence and other disorders in the inner cities have diminished in the past year, "the surface calm may be more ominous than reassuring." It added that "by every objective criterion, the plight of the cities has worsened."

In recommendations on the Middle East, the plenary noted that the "great reservoir" of good will among Americans toward Israel, while still preponderant, has been ebbing since the 1967 war. That development was attributed in part to the unpopularity of the Vietnam war which, coupled with mounting tension in the Middle East, has increased American anxiety about possible U.S. military intervention in the Mideast. The national Jewish agencies called for expanded and intensified "interpretive efforts" by the Jewish community relations agencies in behalf of Israel's "right to exist in security" and for U.S. support of Israel's defense "with arms and economic means." In action dealing with the problem of Soviet Jewry, the NJCRAC called on the U.S. government to "inject into conversations and negotiations" with the Soviet Union the question of discrimination against Jews and the suppression of Jewish religious and cultural expressions. It also called for continued public efforts by the Jewish community to dramatize the issue.

## CCAR Conclave Endorses United Jewish Appeal '100 Percent' Plan

ST. LOUIS, June 28 (JTA)--The "100-percent Plan" which makes contributions to the United Jewish Appeal a standard obligation of synagogue membership was unanimously endorsed by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at the closing session of its 82nd annual convention here. The plan, initiated last fall by the UJA's Rabbinical Advisory Council, has been adopted so far by more than 100 synagogues around the country. The CCAR's resolution endorsing the plan called it an "authentic and proper instrument for use by synagogues" and urged all Reform congregations to introduce it. Rabbi Dudley Weinberg, of Milwaukee, chairman of the UJA Rabbinical Advisory Council, said "We hope this act will set a precedent for other rabbinical and congregational bodies." Rabbi David Polish, of Evanston, Ill., was elected president of the CCAR, succeeding Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn of Boston.

## Raffaele Cantoni, Post-War Italian Jewish Leader, Dies At 75

ROME, June 28 (JTA)--Funeral services were held in Venice today for Raffaele Cantoni, a post-war leader of Italy's Jewish community, who died at the age of 75. Cantoni, an anti-Fascist, who escaped to Switzerland in 1943, assumed leadership of Italian Jewry in 1946 when he was elected president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, a post he held until 1955. He was interested in social work and headed several charitable bodies including Youth Aliya of which his wife, Emma, was president in Italy. Cantoni was a member of the world executive of the World Jewish Congress.