

JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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VOL. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Monday, July 26, 1971

No. 141

Immigrant Families From Soviet Georgia Stage Sit-In At Lydda Airport

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)-- Four families from the Georgian Republic, part of a planeload of Soviet Jewish emigres arriving here from Vienna, today, staged a sit-in at Lydda Airport to protest the accommodations offered them by the Absorption Ministry. Several of the families demanded housing in Lod where they said they had relatives and friends. One of them however refused a flat at Kiryat Atta although their brother lives in that town. (Press reports that Soviet authorities have called a sudden halt to Jewish emigration were questioned today by reliable Jewish sources in New York. The sources, which have provided accurate information on developments in the Soviet Union hitherto, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the report by Los Angeles Times correspondent Richard Reston from Moscow was not correct. Reston said that only 180 Jews left the USSR during the first week of July and that there has been virtually no movement at all since then. He noted that in contrast, from March through June, Soviet authorities were permitting an average of 1,000 Jews a month to leave.)

(Jewish sources in New York told the JTA that the Soviet Jewish writer David Markish is working as a porter since he lost his job and was ousted from the writers' union for applying for a visa to go to Israel. The sources also reported that a Jewish economist named Korncher was fired from his position at the Plekhanov Institute after he asked for a character reference to apply for an exit visa. According to the source he is working as a postman. A character reference from an employer or teacher is one of the documents required before a visa application is accepted for consideration by Soviet authorities.)

Israel Awaiting Sisco Visit; Sadat Speech Seen Worsening Stalemate

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--United States Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco, is expected in Israel next Thursday or Friday. The impending visit of the American diplomat was a subject of discussion at today's Cabinet meeting attended by Israel's Ambassador to Washington Yitzhak Rabin who reported on the present status of Israeli-American relations. Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported the latest developments in Israel's foreign relations generally. According to political sources here, the Government does not expect Sisco to bring any message that might indicate a positive move on the part of Egypt to break the current impasse over an interim agreement to reopen the Suez Canal. According to these sources, a grave view was taken in official Israeli circles of the latest speech by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat Friday to the Arab Socialist Union in Cairo, the only Egyptian political party. Sadat in effect laid down an ultimatum giving Israel until the end of this year to meet Egyptian terms for a settlement. Although he gave no specific deadline, Sadat indicated that he would give the cease-fire only a few more months to endure unless progress was made toward a settlement. He coupled that remark with a vow that Egypt would sacrifice "millions" in a new war against Israel.

While Government sources say there was nothing new in Sadat's latest speech they indicated that prospects for ending the stalemate seem more remote than ever. Authoritative quarters today reiterated that Israel's policy continues to be based on principles laid down by the government and endorsed by the Knesset. They said there was no room for any new Israeli initiative as long as Egypt insists on a settlement from which it would be the only beneficiary. Sisco, who was briefed at the Western White House last week, is expected to inaugurate a new phase of American diplomacy when he visits Jerusalem next week. The new phase was described by observers as more activist, placing the U.S. in the role of "prodder" and "catalyst" rather than only a channel of communications between the two sides. Sisco will also run head-on into Israel's latest request for more Phantom jets and other military equipment. According to some sources here, Washington will wait until his return before assessing Israel's latest military needs and reaching a decision.

Hebrew U. Arab Grad Headed Gang Responsible For 1969 Bombings

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--A terrorist gang responsible for a series of bombing incidents in Tel Aviv and other cities dating back to 1969 has been apprehended and has confessed to the crimes, Israeli security authorities disclosed today. The gang was headed by 26-year-old Abdul Malek Dhamsho, a lawyer from Nazareth who graduated from the Hebrew University in 1969 and has made a practice of defending alleged terrorists brought to trial. Three other members of the gang were also identified as Israeli Arabs. The fourth was a resident of Nablus on the West Bank who acted as contact man between the terrorist command and the Israeli-Arab cell. According to the authorities, the accused admitted parking a car loaded with explosives on Keren Kayameth Boulevard near Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv two years ago. The car exploded causing severe damage to nearby buildings but no casualties despite the crowds on the street at the time. About a month after that incident, two explosive charges went off on parking lot near a Haifa movie house. A year later two more cars filled with dynamite exploded in residential areas of Natanya. Authorities said the gang members admitted responsibility for each bombing.

They said that Dhamsho took over leadership of the El Fatah cell, after its former leader, Sabari Jaris fled to Lebanon. Jaris, also a lawyer, had been practicing in Haifa. The other gang members were identified as Kameil Ibrahim Shahin Kopti, 27, a painter from Kfar Kanna, near Nazareth; Saltman Shakour, also 27, of Nazareth; Abdul Razek Hesham al Buab, a Jaffa restaurant owner who confessed to storing the explosives until they were used; and Mouhamed Ali Khalil Hassan,

a Nablus school teacher. Authorities said the latter had a secret cache in his school where large quantities of explosives have since been discovered along with bazookas and bazooka shells, light machineguns and demolition equipment. Dhamshe's arrest was denounced by the local Communist Party in Nazareth which alleged that he was being punished because he defended terrorists in the Israeli courts and had, on several occasions, accused Israeli authorities of mistreating suspects. Other circles in Nazareth said however that if Dhamshe and his partners are proven guilty they should be punished.

Five "Wanted" Terrorists Slain In Gaza Gun-Battle

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--Five Arab terrorists, all of them on the "wanted" list, were killed in Gaza today after an all-night pursuit and gun battle with an Israeli patrol. The terrorists were identified as members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. There were no Israeli casualties. The terrorists took refuge in the Falouja School in the Rimal section of Gaza which was surrounded by Israeli forces. Their bodies were taken to a nearby hospital where several local women later staged a minor demonstration in which Israeli police did not interfere. A terrorist was killed in the Mouazzzi refugee camp in Gaza Friday afternoon. A hand grenade was found on his body. Four terrorists who infiltrated behind Israeli lines in the southern Golan Heights last night were captured after a brief gun battle. One of them was wounded. The body of a fifth infiltrator was found later near the site along with five Kalachnikov rifles.

According to a military spokesman, the terrorists were attempting to reach the Syrian lines when they were intercepted. The Israelis opened fire when the Arabs refused to halt. Officials of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) helped Israeli police calm a large group of Arab demonstrators in Gaza who were protesting the construction of a road through the Jabaliya refugee camp, the largest in the Gaza Strip. An estimated 100 women and children from the camp assembled outside of UNWRA headquarters. Israeli authorities explained that the road was being built for security reasons and would benefit the camp inmates. A number of families who were evicted to make way for the construction have been paid compensation and given better living quarters, the Israeli authorities said.

Almogi Would Hold Arab Work Force At Present Level

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--Labor Minister Joseph Almogi said today that the 40,000 Arab workers from the occupied territories presently employed in Israel represented the "optimum number" that can be absorbed by Israel's labor market and should not be increased. Speaking on the Army radio, Almogi said about 30,000 of the Arab labor force from the territories were union organized while about half of the balance was working in Israel illegally. He said Arab workers received the same wages and social benefits as Jewish labor. He denied that "cheap" Arab labor from the occupied areas has had a harmful effect on the local labor force. According to Almogi, Arab labor is not cheaper, only less skilled.

The Minister did not think that political changes in the event of a peace settlement would have a lasting effect on Israel's economy, although he conceded that his Ministry was not fully prepared for such an eventuality. "If this should happen, the Israel economy would suffer a bit at first but within two or three months would adapt to the new situation," he said.

Israel Can Absorb Half Million In 5 Years, Minister Says

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--Israel is capable of absorbing a quarter of a million immigrants during the next five years but could double that number if the need arises, Absorption Minister Nathan Peled said today. Peled spoke at a new immigrants' township at Karmiel in Upper Galilee. He said the rapid growth of Israel's economy made possible the absorption of such large numbers of newcomers.

Officials Deny Counterfeit \$ Circulating In Israel

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--Officials of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Israel said today that there was no substance to press reports from Paris alleging that large sums of counterfeit U.S. dollars were in circulation in Israel. Police here confirmed the officials' contention that the story, attributed to two un-named Jews, was simply an attempt to undermine Israel's good name.

New Left No Longer "In" Among Overseas Students In Israel

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--The head of the Civic Information Center reported today that a record 15,000 overseas students have volunteered for work at various kibbutzim for the months of July and August and that another 17,000 are scheduled to arrive by the end of the year. According to Yehuda Allan, the influence of the New Left among overseas students had decreased sharply. The Civic Information Center looks after the needs of students from abroad.

Revolutionary Diamond Polishing Machine Demonstrated

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--Two Israeli machines which are expected to revolutionize the diamond polishing industry were demonstrated at the Haifa Conference on Mechanical Engineering. The machines were developed at the Haifa Technion's Diamond Research Laboratory by Professor Yeshaya Yarnitzky of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. One of the machines flawlessly grinds and polishes the angled faces of a diamond. Until now, skilled workers had to sit at a revolving wheel and press onto it the diamond which is to be given polished faces. With the new grinder-polisher, four diamonds can be handled by one revolving wheel while a semi-skilled worker supervises a group of such wheels. The second machine rounds and shines diamonds.

Petition From 40 Soviet Jews Failed To Move Russian Supreme Court

NEW YORK, July 25 (JTA)--A petition signed by 40 Soviet Jews was presented to the Supreme Court of the Russian Republic last week backing up an appeal filed by the nine Jews convicted at the second Leningrad trial, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned from reliable Jewish sources today. The Soviet court on July 20 rejected the appeal which had asked only for a reduction of the sentences. The accompanying petition, however, demanded that the accused be set free because they were innocent of complicity in an alleged plot to hijack a Soviet airliner at Leningrad in June, 1970. According to the report, the petition was presented to the high court by a delegation of three representing the signers. The petition claimed that "confessions" and "regrets" that were obtained from the defendants were the results of "long interrogation and psychological pressure."

Moshe Decter, coordinator of the Commission of Inquiry on the Rights of Soviet Jews has released the text of a letter from the Black civil rights leader Bayard Rustin to United Nations Secretary General U Thant. The letter disclosed that six of the nine defendants at the second Leningrad trial were among 37 Soviet Jews whom the authorities prevented from presenting a petition to Thant when he was in Moscow on June 14, 1971. Rustin wrote, "The very fact of their inability to petition the United Nations, through your person, must in itself be a matter of great concern to the organization." The petition had asked Thant to intercede personally on behalf of Jews prevented from emigrating from the USSR in violation of the UN Declaration of Human Rights to which the Soviet Union subscribes.

Critical Shortage Of Rabbis Persists In USSR

An interfaith delegation representing the Appeal Of Conscience Foundation, returning Friday from its fifth visit to the Soviet Union in five years, reported that Jewish religious life in the USSR has "further deteriorated" over the past year because of the "critical shortage" of rabbis and the lack of teachers, books and students "to make (a yeshiva) a reality." The group nevertheless saw a glimmer of hope in the future of religious life in Russia, including that of the Jewish community. The delegation consisted of Rabbi Arthur Schneller, of Park East Synagogue here who is president of the Foundation; The Rev. Dr. Harold A. Bosley, of Christ Church, Methodist; The Rev. Thurston N. Davis, of the United States Catholic Conference; and former Congressman Francis E. Dorn, a Catholic lawyer, all vice presidents of the Conference. Their report said in part, "While the Soviet Union continues its officially atheistic position, we found a new willingness of government officials to discuss frankly the state of religion in their nation. We also found a growing inclination on their part to take pragmatically into account requests of believers. We sensed a greater confidence among the religious groups in their dealings with one another and with their government... There was a breakdown of their previous sense of isolation from other groups in the Soviet Union and throughout the world."

The delegation said they were "encouraged" by the Soviet Government's permission for several Jewish students to study at the rabbinical seminary in Budapest, Hungary. Such schools do not exist in the USSR. They added however, "We realize that this arrangement is at best a temporary palliative but it could be a start toward the renewal of Jewish spiritual leadership."

30,000 Tourists Cancelled Flights To Israel Because of Hotel Shortage

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--El Al, Israel's airline, reported today that it has received cancellations from about 30,000 prospective tourists mainly from the North American and European countries who decided not to visit Israel this summer because of the acute shortage of hotel space. (An El Al spokesman in New York told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the airline had not received any large number of cancellations although he described the hotel situation in Israel as "critical." He said the airline was still running a "full schedule" and has not had to cancel any flights or major tours.)

Tourist officials here said there is not a single room free in any Israeli hotel at the moment. They said the hotel boom was not confined to the large cities but was evident in smaller resorts like Nathanya, Ashkelon and Tiberias.

Court Orders Lansky To Put Up Security Money To Cover Libel Suit Costs

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--The reputed American rackets boss Meyer Lansky was ordered today Friday by the Tel Aviv District Court to deposit \$17,500 to cover costs in case he loses his \$350,000 libel suit against the newspaper Yediot Achronot. The paper had demanded that Lansky deposit the money because he is not a citizen of Israel and his tourist visa may expire. Lansky has had five extensions of his visa since arriving in Israel a year ago. He is suing the newspaper because of a series of articles on his alleged criminal activities.

In a related development, the newspaper Haaretz apologized in print to the luxury Dan Hotel for an article which claimed Lansky had invested in it and in other establishments of Dan Hotels Enterprises. The chain promptly dropped a libel suit against Haaretz.

Bronfman Son Pledges Continued Support For Israel

MONTREAL, July 25 (JTA)--Edgar Bronfman, vice president for American operations of Seagrams, Ltd., announced yesterday that he was succeeding his late father, Samuel Bronfman, as president of the giant distillery. Bronfman, 42, said Seagrams will continue "to be generous contributors to the State of Israel" and to aid "other charities." The late Samuel Bronfman, who died two weeks ago at the age of 80, was an outstanding philanthropist and ardent supporter of Israel. His younger son, Charles Bronfman, 40, will become executive vice president of the firm. A brother, Allan Bronfman, 75, will remain as vice president.

JDLers Sentenced in Israel For Extortion; Kahane Draws Suspended Sentence in N.Y.

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--An American and a Canadian student at Bar Ilan University who admitted to membership in the Jewish Defense League, were sentenced to six months in jail by a Tel Aviv district court today on charges of having extorted money from fellow students for the JDL. The accused, Robert Fine, 25, an American and Seymour Laker, 23, of Canada, denied the charges. (Federal Judge Jack B. Weinstein imposed a five year suspended sentence and \$5000. fine on JDL national chairman Rabbi Meir Kahane in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn Thursday. Kahane was convicted of making bombs at the JDL's Camp Jedel in Woodburne, N.Y. Two co-defendants, Chaim Bleber and Stewart Cohen, were given three year suspended sentences and three years' probation. Bleber was fined \$2500, and Cohen \$500. More than 500 JDL followers cheered the verdict and carried Kahane out of the courthouse on their shoulders. In rendering his verdict, Judge Weinstein said, "In this country at this time it is not permissible to substitute the bomb for the book as a symbol of Jewish manhood." He said that if the terms of probation are violated the suspended sentences would be revoked and the full jail terms imposed on Kahane and the others. Kahane said later that he had not asked the court for leniency. He insisted that there were times when "there is no other way than violence." He said the JDL would buy rifles for Jewish "self defense" and announced that its new motto would be, "Every Jew a .22.")

VOA Yiddish Broadcasts Up To Nixon, JTA Told

WASHINGTON, July 25 (JTA)--The ultimate decision as to whether the Voice of America will beam Yiddish language broadcasts to the Soviet Union will be made by President Nixon, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned from well informed sources here. The VOA, which is part of the United States Information Agency headed by Frank Shakespeare, is on record as opposed to Yiddish broadcasts on technical grounds and because it believes that its present broadcasts to the USSR in various languages reaches a sufficient number of Russian Jews with news of Jewish affairs. The agency has argued that most Soviet Jews understand Russian and that Yiddish programs would only be redundant. Advocates of Yiddish VOA broadcasts say that apart from the news value they would constitute a tremendous psychological uplift for Soviet Jews. Bi-partisan pressure for special VOA Yiddish programming is building up in Congress where Senators Clifford Case (R-N.J.) and John V. Tunney (D-Calif.), have sponsored a resolution calling on the USIA to inaugurate it.

The USIA Advisory Commission, headed by Frank Stanton, president of the Columbia Broadcasting System, will announce a decision on the matter next month. It is virtually certain that an affirmative recommendation would be rejected by Shakespeare. In that case, sources said, the sponsors of VOA Yiddish programming would appeal directly to the President.

First Factory Established At Druze Village On Carmel

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--The first factory ever established in a Druze village was officially inaugurated at Daliyat el Carmel on the crest of Mt. Carmel. A branch of the Gabor Textile Enterprise, is expected to employ about 250 local workers, mainly women, to produce hosiery. The parent company has invested \$7000, in a day-care center for the employees' children and announced plans for three more plants at "minorities" villages. The new factory has been named for the late Sgt. Lufi Nasser Edin, a Druze member of the Israel Army who was killed in action. The Druze are a non-Arab Moslem sect loyal to the State of Israel.

Matching Funds Pledged To Aid Students At Hebrew University

JERUSALEM, July 25 (JTA)--The American Friends of the Hebrew University has pledged \$5 million--to be matched by the Israel government--for a special fund to help culturally deprived young people who want to study at the university. University president Avraham Harman, who announced the gift, said the money would be used primarily for preparatory studies. He also announced the endowment of a separate but similar fund by the chairman of the institution's board of governors, Samuel Rothberg, in honor of Rothberg's 60th birthday.

Orthodox Group Plans Religious Broadcasts To Israel From Cyprus

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--A group of Orthodox Israelis, aided by religious elements abroad, are planning "Torah Radio" broadcasts into Israel from Cyprus. The group complained that Kol Israel, Israel's State-owned radio station, provides almost no time for religious broadcasts and that the radio management follows "an extremely anti-religious policy." Representatives of the group plan to negotiate in Cyprus with a station there for several hours of religious programming a week.

U. of Penna. Grad Named To Bar Ilan Post

TEL AVIV, July 25 (JTA)--Prof. Solomon Poll, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, has been appointed dean of the faculty of social sciences at Bar-Ilan University. It was announced here. Prof. Poll, born in Austria, is noted for his research and writing on racial and ethnic minorities, racial stratification and the sociology of religion and community problems. He has also done research on the genetic differences that make Ashkenazic and Sephardic Jews susceptible to different diseases.

Max Wershoff, Canada's New Envoy To Hungary And Poland

OTTAWA, July 25 (JTA)--Max Wershoff, Canada's Ambassador to Denmark, has been named the new Ambassador to Hungary and Poland, it was announced today. Wershoff, 61, the son of a Hebrew school principal, is a career diplomat who has served with the Canadian Foreign Ministry since 1937.