

JTA daily news bulletin

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

Contents copyright. Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Wednesday, August 11, 1971

No. 153

Nine Convicted Kishinev Jews 'Cruelly Treated' By Other Prisoners; One Beaten

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Jewish sources here reported today that the nine Jewish defendants in the Kishinev trial were "cruelly treated" by other prisoners after they were placed in cells with convicted criminals. The sources added that one of the Jews, Anatoly Molseyevich Goldfeld, was severely beaten in the Kishinev jail. They also reported that the three Leningrad residents among the nine Jews--David Iserovich Chernogiaz, Goldfeld and Hillel Zalmanovich Shur--have been transferred from Kishinev to cells in Leningrad. The nine were sentenced six weeks ago for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and a "bandit attack" on a Soviet airliner in an alleged skyjacking plot. Their sentences ranged from five years to one, with Chernogiaz getting five, Goldfeld four and Shur two. Jewish sources had no report today on the fate of Valeriy Kukui's appeal of his three-year sentence for "anti-Soviet slander," which was supposed to be heard in Moscow today. There has also been no word on the appeal of Odessa librarian Raiza Palatnik, which is supposed to be heard Oct. 5.

Jarring: Israel Must Be Prepared To Pay Price For Peace

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The forgotten man in the Middle East deliberations, United Nations intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, said of Israel today that "the side that wants peace must pay a price." In an interview at his summer house in Sweden with an Israeli journalist, the Swedish ambassador declared: "Israel cannot expect Egypt to accept all her conditions. A settlement must be the result of trust between the two sides." Dr. Jarring, whose public comments since assuming his Mideast role nearly four years ago have been rare and noncommittal, said of his aborted mission: "Although I did not succeed, yet I believe the end of the matter will be peace in the Middle East."

The diplomat, whose fulltime job is as envoy to the Soviet Union, told the Israeli journalist, whose name was not revealed at Dr. Jarring's request, that there was very little difference between his mission and the current American efforts toward a Mideast settlement. Diplomatic observers, contrarily, have characterized the American efforts--like the recent Mideast visits by Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Assistant Secretary Joseph J. Sisco--as attempts to save the truce in the wake of the apparent failure of the Swedish go-between to bring the parties to the negotiating table. The U.S. is now the intermediary, the diplomats say, and Dr. Jarring is virtually out of the picture. For his part, Dr. Jarring told the Israeli writer that he had followed the reports of Sisco's latest mission "with interest."

Herzog Cites Reasons Why U.S. Is Cool Toward Israel's Reported Request For Lance

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--If foreign press reports about an Israeli request for American Lance missiles and Washington's coolness to the request are true, this is readily understandable in terms of American global thinking. Israel's foremost military commentator said last night over Kol Yisroel. Gen. Chaim Herzog, former Commander of the Israel Defense Forces, said the range of the Lance is more than 60 miles, not "in excess of 50 miles" as reported yesterday by the New York Times. He added that it can be fired both from the ground and from the air and that its multiple warhead can be armed with either conventional or nuclear weapons. An Israeli request for such a missile, Herzog said, might stem from the fact that no single type of weapon--only an integrated weapons system--is sufficient to counter any one type of Egyptian weapon, such as one of its Soviet missile bases. American coolness toward Israel's reported request may stem from the following reasons, according to Herzog: The United States advocates an arms balance not only in the Middle East but everywhere; the U.S. would not like, at this time, to be the supplier of a new type of weapon to the Mideast, and the fact that a nuclear warhead can be attached to the Lance would make the U.S. more hesitant to sell it as Washington would be lending itself to easy exploitation by the Soviet and Arab propaganda machinery. The Lance has not yet been used even by American troops.

Israel Will Probably Vote For Admission Of Communist China To UN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Informed sources said here today Israel will probably vote for the admission of Communist China to the United Nations but not for the expulsion of Nationalist China. The Foreign Ministry is holding consultations on Israel's strategy for the upcoming General Assembly at the United Nations under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Abba Eban and attended by Yosef Tekoah, Israel's ambassador to the UN. Israel, which extended diplomatic recognition to Red China 21 years ago, without reciprocity, will not change its projected stand even if the mainland regime refuses to take a seat at the UN if Taiwan is not expelled.

Four Israeli COs Say They Do Not Want To Serve In Army To Become 'Oppressors'

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Four Israeli conscientious objectors, who published a letter last week to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan refusing military service, told a group of newsmen here tonight that while other Israeli youths had declined service with no effort at publicity, they had sought by their public action to arouse public opinion in Israel on the war issue. The four--three young men and one girl--have draft dates for callup from August through November. The Israeli resisters asserted that war and occupation of conquered areas were generally ordered by "persons who stand to gain by them." They gave their names as Miss Irit Yaacobi, Reuben Lessmann and Dov Gall, all of Jerusalem and Giora Neumann from Tel Aviv. All are high school graduates and at least two of them from well-to-do families. Declaring they knew they were subject to maximum 15-year prison terms, nevertheless, as Gall put it, "we do not want to become oppressors and we do not want to die as oppressors." Although Israel has no law on conscientious objectors, war resisters are usually exempted from military service on "medical grounds." A 15-year-old youth sitting with the four COs said that he himself had obtained such deferment and that he knew of many others. Gall told of a visit to the Gaza Strip where he had "seen the fear and hatred in the eyes of the population of Jebeliah village," some of whose residents are being transferred to El Arish for security reasons.

Gall said that he felt that "the fear and hatred were directed at me and I could not bear the thought." He described the Gaza situation as only "a case in point." The youngsters argued that "conquest breeds terror, the latter breeds counter-terror and this is a vicious circle" of which they wanted no part. When questioned on their views about the pre-Six-Day War borders and their political affiliations, the four became evasive. They would admit only that they were active in the "League for Human Rights" which has made some sharp charges against the Israel government and its military authorities. Both Gall and Neumann repeated charges that Israeli troops and border police in the Gaza Strip carried out crimes against humanity and contravened the Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians by forcibly removing them across an international borderline. Miss Yaacobi admitted she had been one of the organizers of a Black Panther demonstration in Jerusalem last May which erupted into violence. She said she had met Panther leaders when she went to the Musrara slum section to give private lessons to children of large families. Last week the four COs returned their draft cards to the Defense Ministry and wrote a letter to Dayan saying they refuse to serve in the army because it was "an army of occupation." The draft cards were returned to them by the Ministry and the four said today they did not intend to appear at the recruiting offices on the date set for them and will await the consequences.

Mrs. Meir: Ambition To Make Sure 1967 War Last One Between Israel, Arabs

LONDON, Aug. 10 (JTA)--An estimated 12 million viewers tuned in BBC last night for an hour-long presentation of Premier Golda Meir's attitudes, including a definition of her aims as Premier and a disclaimer of any interest in another term as Premier. BBC officials said copies of the film have been sold to many other countries. Mrs. Meir said she had striven to make sure that "the mistake of 1967" the Six-Day War, "is not repeated." Her ambition, she said, was to make the 1967 war "the last one between ourselves and the Arabs. She also touched on some personal matters, declaring she wanted to retire before people became impatient with her and started waiting for her resignation. She said also that she hoped to die before her mind becomes enfeebled by old age. Saying she had never made a will, Mrs. Meir remarked she had once, during a serious illness, written "a kind of testament-letter to my sister and children in which I ask that no eulogies be delivered about me after my death and that nothing should bear my name." She revealed that not only had she never believed she had always done the right thing in her busy public life, but in fact "I am often assailed by doubt."

Felgin Married To Haifa Girl; 16 Georgian Jews Warn Of Drastic Actions

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA)--"Just imagine; A few months ago I was imprisoned in a mental asylum. Today I am here and am marrying the girl I love." So said Maj. Grisha Felgin, the former Red Army hero who returned his medals to the Soviet authorities in protest against their Jewish policy. He was committed to an asylum for his act, and was eventually allowed to go to Israel. Felgin was wed last night to Yaffa Reich of Haifa, with Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren of Tel Aviv officiating. Many Russian immigrants attended, and the government was represented by Absorption Minister Natan Peled, a Russian immigrant of an earlier generation. Rabbi Goren spoke on the plight of Soviet Jews and on Felgin's role in their struggle for freedom and identity. Another group of Jewish immigrants arrived here this morning from Riga, Czernowitz, Wilna and Tashkent. They had received their exit visas prior to the reported recent slowdown in approvals. Meanwhile, reports from Soviet Georgia said 16 Jews have warned the authorities in writing that if they are not granted the visas promised them two weeks ago, "we shall take up drastic and dramatic measures." The 16 were among those who sat in the central post office in Moscow last month.

500 Neturei Karta Members Protest Police Action In Mea Shearim

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Five hundred followers of the Neturei Karta movement, which does not recognize the State of Israel because it was not, in their view, established by the Messiah, staged a demonstration against the police last night in the Mea Shearim quarter. The Orthodox demonstrators were protesting police action there Saturday night after religious zealots threw stones at Egged buses for providing some services on the Sabbath. No arrests were made last night. During Saturday night's clashes the Neturei Karta leader, Rabbi Amram Blau, denounced the police as "Zionist pogromchiks." Of the 64 persons arrested then, 11 were remanded to Magistrate's Court and 14 were released on bail after being charged with stone-throwing, interfering with traffic, and attacking policemen and civilians. The other 39, including Americans and Belgians, were released earlier on bond; their names were not disclosed.

296 Arab Students Attending Egyptian Universities Cross Canal To Visit Families

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The Suez Canal battle zone reverted briefly yesterday to a normal waterway when 296 Arab students attending Egyptian universities crossed the canal for a six-week summer vacation with families in the Gaza Strip and at El Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula. They were flabbergasted when they found, after the crossing, that among the Israeli officials waiting to greet them were Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and United Nations Ambassador Yosef Tekoah. Dayan remarked that Israeli assistance enabling the students to study in Arab countries and to make visits to their homes helped normalize life in the occupied areas. Asked by newsmen if Israel would permit visits from Egypt for medical purposes, Dayan replied he doubted the Egyptian government would allow that and, in any case, no such applications had been received. Commenting on the tranquility along the canal zone because of the year-old cease-fire, Dayan said, "I like it this way. I hope it continues."

CORRECTION: In its Aug. 6 interview with Jack D. Weller, chairman of the Housing Committee of the reconstituted Jewish Agency, the JTA Daily News Bulletin referred to 400,000 Israeli families living in slums; it should have said 400,000 individuals. The article also said Weller considers mobile homes the solution to Israel's housing problem; he was referring only to housing assistance to young married couples, 3 percent of the population. Mobile homes are not being built in the United States at the rate of one per hour, as reported in the article; that is the rate attainable by any one plant. Weller was quoted as urging new immigrants to agree to live 20 miles from urban areas; the reference should have been to 20 minutes, representing about five miles.

Jewish Community in India Will Not Be Affected By Soviet-India Treaty

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The 20-year friendship treaty between the Soviet Union and India, disclosed yesterday in a surprise announcement in New Delhi, will not affect the small and dwindling Indian Jewish community, according to Samuel L. Haber, executive vice chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. "Nothing will happen (to India's Jews)," he told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "There is no anti-Semitism in India. There is no 'Jewish question' in India." Haber estimated the number of Indian Jews at 10,000 in a total population of nearly 600 million. He described as probably too high the figure of 15,000 Jews in 1970 indicated by the American Jewish Yearbook. Haber added that 1,000 to 1,500 Jews leave India every year, mostly for Israel, but stressed that their reasons were not connected with anti-Semitism but with a desire to escape poverty and a desire to reunite with their families. Indian Jewry, he said, is "a community in liquidation," but not because of anti-Jewish measures by the government. Haber noted that the Indian-Pakistani dispute and the mass killings in East Pakistan were having "no effect, visible or invisible" on Jews, as there are only an "infinitesimal" number of them in Pakistan. The American Jewish Yearbook gives a 1970 figure of 250 Jews in a Pakistani population of nearly 112 million.

Five Terrorists Killed in Clashes; 9 Hebron Residents Injured By Grenade

TEL AVIV, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Five Arab terrorists, all members of the same gang, were killed last night and today in two clashes, officials have reported. Three were killed in an encounter with an Israeli army patrol in the Raffah section of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli unit suffered no casualties. The clash occurred as Israeli units were conducting a search in pursuit of guerrillas. Hand grenades and other weapons were found near the boldes. (At the United Nations in New York, Lebanon protested to the Security Council today Israel's action yesterday in moving troops into southern Lebanon in pursuit of terrorists. But Lebanon did not request a Council meeting on the matter.) The two slain today clashed with an Israeli unit in the Kaelma area of Sinai south of Raffah. Officials said many acts of sabotage had been attributed to the gang which was active in the southern area for almost two years.

Officials added that the gang was responsible for the mine explosion two years ago in which the Raffah military governor, Lt. Col. Abraham Sachs was killed, and the death of an Israeli police pathologist who perished when his jeep hit a mine planted by the gang in the southern Negev area. A hand grenade thrown at noon today at a tourist bus in Hebron missed the bus and exploded near a group of Hebron residents, injuring ten of them. Nine were released after treatment and one was hospitalized. Two of the bus occupants suffered slight abrasions and continued their scheduled tour. Security sources said that the renewal of terrorism had been expected. They said that while the guerrillas had been severely mauled by King Hussein's army, there was a possibility of individuals or small groups reorganizing for such limited acts as grenade throwing, which happened this week in both Jerusalem and Hebron.

Knesset Holds Session On Hospital Strike; Doctors Bitter About Back-To-Work Order

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The Knesset held a special session today to deal with the strikes crippling the nation's health services. The session had been requested by opponents of the government's use of its emergency powers to force the strikers back to work. Premier Golda Meir signed such an order against striking doctors in government and government-municipal hospitals last night after Health Minister Victor Shemtov refused to do so. The fact that the strikers were back at work made the session a perfunctory one. The issue was referred to committee. The doctors who returned to work today were bitter over the back-to-work orders. The medical staff of hospitals of Kupat Holim, the Histaadrut sick fund organization, called for meetings to express protest against the back-to-work orders and "solidarity" with doctors working under emergency regulations.

British Diplomatic Steps Indicate Difference On Common Market Document On Israel

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Britain has taken two diplomatic steps relative to Israel which observers here interpreted today to indicate a British view that the Common Market document on Israel, which Israel opposes, does not reflect a European consensus. That document, which calls for a total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas and which was sponsored by France, has not been formally issued. One of the steps was the disclosure by the Israel Foreign Ministry today that British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home has accepted an invitation to visit Israel, probably in Jan. The second step was an official invitation to Foreign Minister Abba Eban to visit Britain in Nov. at Sir Alec's invitation. The observers noted that Eban has met on many occasions with Prime Minister Edward Heath and Sir Alec. The issuance by the British government of an official invitation to Eban was considered a political act related to the Common Market document.

In addition to the visit of Sir Alec, five of the six Common Market ministers have either visited Israel or are scheduled to do so. The exception is France's Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann. Sir Alec also is scheduled to visit Cairo Sept. 12-15 and Morocco Sept. 15-17. He will then go to Gibraltar. It was reported here that Eban will not meet with Schumann at Orly Airport en route to his official visit to London. The French Foreign Minister said some time ago that on any occasion that Eban passed through Paris, he would be glad to come to the airport and talk to the Israeli leader. Israel's reaction to that offer is that Eban will see Schumann only on official invitation. France is the only major West European country which has failed to extend such an official invitation to Eban.

Dr. Burg Says Israel Resolved To Obtain Peace Accord With Arabs

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 10 (JTA)--Israel's Interior Minister Dr. Yosef Burg arrived here today for a short visit to study the religious and cultural life of Argentina's Jewish community. He was greeted at the airport by Israeli Ambassador Eliezer Doron and Chief Rabbi David Kahane. Dr. Burg told newsmen that Israel was firmly resolved to obtain a peace settlement with the Arabs, based on security. "Meanwhile," he added, "we continue talking with American and European leaders." Dr. Burg will meet with Argentina's Interior Minister later this week. At a luncheon meeting of the Latin American Jewish Congress, Itzhak Korn, Mapai Knesset member, spoke on the reorganization of the World Jewish Congress which will be initiated at the next Plenary Assembly of the WJC executive board.

Joint AJCongress, ADL Study Charges Quaker Report On Mideast Is Biased

NEW YORK, Aug. 10 (JTA)--A comprehensive study published jointly by the American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charged a widely-circulated Quaker report on the Middle East with "blatant bias" and "recommendations detrimental to the cause of peace in the Middle East." The study, "Truth and Peace in the Middle East--A Critical Analysis of the Quaker Report," scheduled for release here tomorrow, accused the American Friends Service Committee of distorting historical fact to bolster a "pre-conceived" pro-Arab bias and masking the effort with claims of objectivity. The authors--three American professors--said despite the humanitarian traditions of the Quakers their document nevertheless "presented a slanted and one-sided set of conclusions." The Quaker report, "Search for Peace in the Middle East," received much attention from the nation's news media when it was published last year. The ADL-AJCongress response asserted that sharp criticism by scholars to whom the Quakers showed a pre-publication draft was virtually ignored because it undercut the Quakers' intended argument. The authors question whether the Quaker document sprang from the view of "chronically pro-Arab old Middle East hands of the State Department" that a pro-Arab slant was required to offset support for Israel in the American general public. The authors of the response were Dr. Arnold Soloway, an economics professor who has taught at Harvard, Boston College and Brown University, Dr. Edwin Weiss, professor of mathematics at Boston University, and Dr. Gerald Caplan, senior psychiatric consultant for the U.S. Peace Corps and professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Professor Ben Halpern of Brandeis University provided a long memorandum that served as the basis for the critique.

The study was particularly sharp in its criticism of Quaker proposals for a Big Four guarantee of peace. The three scholars asserted that "there is no reason to expect that the Big Four could or would guarantee a true peace in the Middle East." The Soviets, for example, had an "enormous investment in the continuation of a no-peace-no-war state of tension" since "true peace would reduce their leverage with the Arab states to a point inimical to their ambitions in the Middle East, Asia and Africa." Furthermore, France and Great Britain, "from their own public records, are mainly concerned with shoring up what is left of their influence among the Arab states and extending their ties with the oil-producing states." The United States is described as having a real interest in promoting a stable peace in the area as the best hope for restoring its influence among the Arab states, "but for its own economic and political reasons it is unwilling to risk offending the Arab states by insisting on the processes and substance which are essential to a permanent solution." The study called the Quaker report's emphasis on Big Four participation "grossly inconsistent with the usual Quaker espousal of the rights of small countries." Furthermore, it went on to say, the Quaker report seemed determined to persist in assigning responsibilities to the UN which that body has repeatedly proven incapable of fulfilling.

Other points made in the critical analysis were that: the Quaker report accepted--and furthered without question or quotation marks--the Arab propaganda view that Israel was imposed on the area by Western states guilty of anti-Semitism to solve, at Arab expense, a problem Arabs never created; the Quaker account falsely implied that the 1948 fighting erupted spontaneously and simultaneously on both sides when, in fact, it was launched by the Arabs despite Jewish appeals for peace and coexistence; the record of events and proceedings in the United Nations prior to June 5, 1967 and the public record in the world's news media make "preposterous" the Quaker judgment that the UAR and Israel were equally guilty for the outbreak of war; and that the Quaker advice to American Jews "to reexamine the full implications of their role with respect to American Middle East policies" was insensitive and, in reality, a warning to American Jews to be wary of exercising their rights as citizens. The ADL-AJCongress study called the Quaker attempt at intervention in the Arab-Israeli conflict "anti-Israeli" and "particularly regrettable because of the long history of mutual respect and sympathy between American Jews and American Friends and their past collaboration in many humanitarian causes." The authors of the study asked the Quakers to review its content in the light of "their own consciences and critical faculties." In issuing the critical analysis of the Quaker report, Seymour Graubard, national chairman of the ADL and Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the AJCongress, said it was their hope that the critique would contribute to "a more accurate assessment of the Middle East crisis and to meaningful dialogue in the future."

City Board Ruling May Force Hebrew Day School To Reduce Classroom Space

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 10 (JTA)--The City Board of Permanent Appeals rejected yesterday a request from officials of the Hebrew Academy, the city's only Jewish day school, for an extension of a building permit needed to meet complaints by city fire department officials that two converted residence buildings used by the day school were unsafe. In giving the initial permit three months ago, the board held that the two buildings could be made safe if the school officials installed fire sprinklers, fire escapes, sheet rock insulation and widened the halls. The school officials were granted the permit to start the needed renovation, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told today. But when the officials found they could not make the necessary alterations in the period of the initial grant, they requested an extension.

Rabbi Pincus Lipner, founder and principal of the day school, which has 200 pupils, said some classrooms had been brought up to acceptable standards and asked for the extension. The board refused by a 3-1 vote. The board held yesterday that the two buildings could not be made safe. Some 15 parents who attended the hearing accused the commissioners of anti-Semitism in their protest. They sought a meeting with Mayor Joseph Alioto who refused to see them but agreed to speak with Rabbi Lipner next week. The Hebrew Academy uses a school building near a synagogue, located in a lower middle class neighborhood. However, the JTA was told, the school building could not accommodate all 200 pupils. The JTA was told also that, if the permit is not renewed and the repairs completed, the day school will have to give up the converted residences, and will not have necessary classroom space when the school year resumes next month.