

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Israeli Finance, Banking Officials Studying Effect Of Nixon's New Policy

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Senior Israeli finance and banking officials indicated today that it would be days and perhaps weeks before Israel could determine what steps it should take in response to the sweeping new domestic and international economic policies announced by President Nixon. One key question before the officials was understood to be that of determining whether to let the Israeli pound fluctuate with the American dollar at the present official rate of exchange of three-and-a-half pounds to the dollar or devalue the pound. That action, it was suggested, could increase Israel's prospects for greater exports. Those and related questions were being intensively studied by officials of the Finance Ministry and of the Bank of Israel, the nation's central reserve bank, in consultations which have been proceeding without letup since Nixon announced the new economic "game plan" Sunday night. Strong objection to the devaluation idea was registered today by Marc Moshevitz, president of the Israel Manufacturers Association. He said devaluation would cause unemployment and make import goods far more expensive, perhaps producing a crisis mood which would be inimical to a country like Israel which is eager to attract investors.

Moshevitz suggested, instead, such fiscal measures as selective import taxation, export incentives and higher purchase taxes. For the second day, trade in foreign currency, other than in dollars, was banned. Special arrangements were made for tourists at Lydda Airport and other points of entry to convert reasonable amounts of other currencies into pounds or of reconvert currency exchanged by tourists for pounds when they entered Israel. The "black market" dollar in Tel Aviv rose today to 4.05 Israeli pounds as speculators gambled on the possibility of devaluation of the pound. That rate was nearly a record. For the past year, the rate has fluctuated around 3.8 pounds and once reached a low of 3.65 pounds. Trading in dollar-linked shares on the Tel Aviv exchange was halted today after a hectic period in which only buyers were in the market. Meanwhile, Moshe Zandberg, the Governor-Designate of the Bank of Israel, was recalled "urgently" from a mission abroad to join in the talks with the present Governor, David Horowitz and his staff.

## Russian Jews Appeal To Western Intellectuals To Help Them Emigrate

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 17 (JTA)--A copy of an appeal to Western intellectuals by seven Russian Jews has been smuggled out of Moscow and been delivered to the home of Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman; it was reported here today. The telegram was addressed to Bergman; Benjamin Britten, the English composer; Charles Chaplin, the English-born actor and director who now lives in Switzerland; Federico Fellini, the Italian film director; Arthur Miller, the American playwright, and Paul Robeson, the American singer. The appeal was smuggled out of Moscow after it failed to arrive at the homes of the six celebrities. It was signed by Pavel Goldstein, Israel Sivasynsky, Grigori Sivasynsky, Gabriel Shapiro, Rosita Rozenblum, Vladimir Rozenblum and Benjamin Preigerson. They asked the celebrities to help them obtain the right to migrate to Israel. Bergman commented: "It is extremely interesting to know about the problem of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, and I shall do whatever I can to help the Soviet Jews." The director was one of 55 Western intellectuals who this past February signed an appeal for Soviet Jewish rights that was sent to the Soviet authorities.

## JWV, Reversing 7-Year Policy, Calls On Nixon To Withdraw Troops From Vietnam

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Jewish War Veterans reversed a seven-year policy here and approved a resolution calling on President Nixon to withdraw all American troops from Indochina by the end of the year. The resolution, passed overwhelmingly at the JWV convention here, made the JWV the country's first veterans organization to change its stand to one favoring prompt withdrawal. "There is little to be gained from extensive arguments over how, why or who was responsible for the decisions that resulted in our country becoming mired in the bottomless pit of Indochinese geopolitics," the convention declared. "Hindsight will contribute nothing to the solution of the Vietnam quagmire." The large majority of the 2,000 delegates, representing more than 100,000 men and women JWV members, made the following arguments for withdrawal by year's end: the war is immoral and useless and there can be no winner; the United States should never have gotten involved in the first place; the war has put the American economy "out of whack" and caused domestic hardships; U.S. involvement in Indochina has led to a loss of confidence in American leadership; South Vietnam is not a viable democracy, and the Pentagon Papers have proved that U.S. involvement was the result of Washington "chicanery."

Warren Adler, a spokesman for the JWV, the oldest active war veterans organization in the U.S., advised the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that its change in policy was the result of a "tremendous fight" by antiwar elements within the ranks who over a period of seven years managed finally to have their "strong feelings" prevail. "They did it out of conviction," Adler said, calling the resolution "a real major step forward." He said Jerome D. Cohen, a New York lawyer who succeeded Albert Schlossberg as JWV Commander, "led the fight" for the resolution. Cohen also spearheaded--despite strong White House pressure--a demonstration in New York last year against visiting French President Georges Pompidou for his refusal to send Israel 50 Mirage jets she had paid for. The JWV convention rejected the view that U.S. support for South Vietnam was equivalent to U.S. support for Israel. The convention was held in the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis.

## Russian Red Crescent Reports Ruth Aleksandrovich In 'Satisfactory Health'

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Russian Red Crescent, the Soviet Union's equivalent of the American Red Cross, claims that Jewish prisoner Ruth Aleksandrovich has received the "necessary medical treatment" and is now in "satisfactory health." The information was relayed by the Red Crescent via cable to George M. Elsey, president of the Red Cross. Elsey reported the news to Rabbi Marc H.

Tanenbaum, director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee, who advised the Jewish Telegraphic Agency of it. On June 16, at a press conference here attended by the prisoner's mother, Mrs. Rivka Alekandrovich, a team of kidney specialists concluded that Ruth Aleksandrovich was probably in "serious" condition and possibly in danger of death. The doctors based their conclusion on a half-year-old checkup by the prisoner's physician, who is now in Israel, and on reports that Miss Aleksandrovich was not being properly cared for in prison. Miss Aleksandrovich, a 24-year-old hospital nurse, was convicted in Riga last year for alleged anti-Soviet activities in seeking equity for Soviet Jews. She is now in Pctma prison in central Mordovia. Her one-year sentence ends Oct. 7.

Rabbi Tanenbaum advised Elsey that the Red Crescent report on the prisoner's health "appears to be reassuring." He said he would forward the information to Mrs. Aleksandrovich and her family in Israel, and thanked Elsey for his "interest and extremely helpful cooperation" on the Aleksandrovich case. A Jewish source here said separately that the prisoner's health had "improved somewhat." He attributed the greater attention to her well-being by the prison authorities to "pressure" from outside the USSR. Rabbi Tanenbaum also reported that the Soviet authorities have allowed Miss Aleksandrovich to receive a package of food and medicine which was sent to her through the American Red Cross. He called this permission "unusual." Rabbi Tanenbaum had asked the American Red Cross to intercede with the Soviet Red Crescent for permission to send the package after Mrs. Aleksandrovich asked the AJCommittee to help her daughter.

### Costa Rican Diplomat Says His Country Will Not Tolerate Arab Resolutions In UN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Costa Rica, the strongest supporter among Latin American nations for Israel's views on means for a lasting peace, will work actively against any Arab-sponsored resolution in the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly, Gonzalo Facio, Costa Rica's Foreign Minister, told newsmen here today. He spoke at the close of a week-long visit to Israel which took him from Sharm el-Sheikh to the Golan Heights. He also said that Jerusalem must remain united under Jewish rule, contending that internationalization was not a solution and that a new division of Jerusalem was "an absurdity." He said also that Sharm el-Sheikh, which controls the Tiran Strait and access for Israel to the Red Sea, must remain under effective Israeli control.

Facio added it "cannot be permitted" that the Tiran Strait could again be suddenly closed to Israeli shipping by anyone, "as happened in the past." The decision of then Egyptian President Nasser to close the Strait in May, 1967, is generally held to have been a precipitating factor in the Six-Day War. The Costa Rican diplomat declared that the Golan Heights, with its "commanding position" over Jewish settlements in the Huleh and Jordan Valleys, could not be relinquished. Facio added that "Israel will probably exist forever and it must be given the full protection it needs." He remarked that the President of Costa Rica had appeared at Israel Bond sales functions in the United States to show his favorable feeling toward Israel. He said another reason for Costa Rica's strongly pro-Israel stand was the "large and respected" Costa Rican Jewish community which, he said, has been able to present Israel's case well.

### Government Doctors Reach Accord With Civil Service; Postal Workers Slow Down

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Full agreement has been reached on "all matters of principle" between government doctors ordered back to work last week and the Israel Civil Service Commission, it was reported here last night. The back-to-work orders were rescinded by the Cabinet Sunday after the doctors gave assurances this would not lead them to resume their strike over pay and other issues. The doctors then resumed negotiations with the Civil Service Commission, the government agency responsible for pay and working conditions for government workers. At the same time, the Post Office announced that its branches throughout Israel will close daily at 3 p.m. effective today, because postal workers have started a series of actions to protest what they call delays in implementation of a labor agreement approved last Dec. Counter clerks are refusing to work split shifts but are working straight shifts ending at 3 p.m. Sorters are refusing to work more than a seven-hour day and delivery men will not work more than eight hours a day. The refusal to put in overtime will increase the present backlog of mail in sorting centers and in deliveries to homes.

A steady stream of complaints about delays and erratic delivery of mail has been pouring into the Post Office and to newspapers in recent weeks but Post Office spokesmen deny that mail sorters and deliverers have been conducting a work slowdown in protest against what they claim is low pay. The workers also refuse to confirm such reports. The chairman of the Government Doctors Association, Dr. Gideon Maneils, said the main hurdle toward a settlement of the government doctors dispute--recognition of the Association as qualified to negotiate for the government doctors--had been overcome. Later he reported that all other issues of principle had also been settled. The main complaint of the government doctors was understood to be that their conditions of work are inferior to those of doctors in the Histadrut sick-fund hospitals, particularly in regard to the work load and to the condition of the hospital buildings and equipment with which they work.

### Relatives Of Soviet Jewish Prisoners Protest Tour In London Of Moscow Circus

LONDON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Relatives of Soviet Jews now serving terms in labor camps have sent a cable to Victor Hochhauser, the London Jewish impresario who arranged for a tour in Britain of the Moscow State Circus, denouncing him for "helping Russian propaganda" which "aims to divert attention from the persecution of Soviet Jews," a Jewish group reported today. The Committee of 35 released here the text of the cable to the impresario. It was signed by Abraham Zalmanson, uncle of Silva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, and of Isak Zalmanson, Wulf Zalmanson, and Edward Kuznetsov; and by Sara and Pinchas Khanokh, brother and sister of Leib Khanokh. The cable said "we are outraged to discover that you are helping Russian propaganda among the British public, which aims to divert attention from the persecution of Soviet Jews by inviting to Britain their artists as a means for making world public opinion forget that our relatives and friends are being held under inhuman conditions in Soviet concentration camps where they are subjected to starvation and forced to do work beyond human strength for the sole reason that they have expressed a desire to go and live in Israel."

### State Department Rejects Report That 65 F-104 Bombers Sent To Jordan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The State Department ridiculed today a Middle East press report that 65 American-built F-104 fighter bombers arrived in Jordan during the past two weeks from Turkey, but did not deny a statement in the same report that American equipment was being used in the construction of a radar network in the northeast corner of Jordan abutting Syria and Iraq, both openly hostile to King Hussein's regime. The Beirut press dispatch quoted "western diplomatic sources" to the effect that the planes came from Turkey where the United States has military bases, but that there was no information about the nationality of the pilots. State Department sources said Jordan does not have enough pilots to man even a third of the reported 65 planes and called the figure "absolutely fantastic."

The Beirut dispatch quoted its sources as saying that a large number of U.S. transport planes have flown in and out of Jordan during the past two weeks, apparently bearing radar components. Syria broke relations with Jordan last Thursday over Hussein's final crackdown against terrorist groups operating from Jordanian bases. Clashes broke out at least three times last week on the Jordanian-Syrian frontier, reportedly involving both tanks and planes. Asked if he had information about the radar report, State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey replied: "I am not going to say anything about it." State Department officials have maintained a tight silence on Middle East developments since the return from Israel earlier this month of Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State. It has long been State Department policy to refuse to discuss U.S. military supplies shipments to the Middle East.

### Six Israelis Invited By Soviet Committee To Visit USSR

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Six Israelis have been invited by the Soviet Committee for Peace, a government-sponsored unit, to come to the USSR for a two-week visit, it was learned here today. The six Israelis are members of the Israeli Committee for Improving Relations With the Soviet Union, and only one of them belongs to a political party. None of the six has an official position in Israel. The surprise invitation was linked by observers to the recent visit to Moscow of Meir Wilner, Knesset member representing the pro-Kremlin Rakach Communists. The six Israelis are Nathan Yellin Mor, a commander of the Stern Gang in the time of the British Mandate and a former Knesset member; James Jacob Rosenthal, Parliamentary correspondent emeritus of Haaretz; Prof. Dan Miron of the Hebrew University's Literature Department; Yaacov Rittin, a longtime Mapam MK who was struck off the party's list of candidates for having views too far to the left of the leftist party; and Ruth Luvitch and Moshe Eidelberg, members of the Israeli Peace Committee and of the Communist-sponsored Israeli League for Friendship With the Soviet Union. Rosenthal told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Committee for Improving Relations With the Soviet Union holds that such improvement is not up to the Russians alone and that there is no harm in Soviet involvement in the Middle East. Rosenthal said the six-member mission will meet many Soviet Jews in its contacts with "authorized representatives of the community," whom he refused to name. He said he regarded the invitation as a gesture of friendship.

### Youth Delegates To Latin American Jewish Conclave Walk Out After Demands Rebuffed

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Youth delegates walked out of a Latin American Jewish meeting here Sunday when they were rebuffed in their attempt to have workshop recommendations on aiding Soviet Jewry, aiding Jews in Arab lands, and improving Jewish education and Jewish-Christian relations made binding on all member units of the World Jewish Congress. But the session was not disrupted by the walkout. The two-day consideration of "The Jewish People in Times of Transformation," held during the first convention of the Latin American Jewish Communities' Southern Region, attracted 120 delegates from seven countries--Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. The guest of honor was Israeli Ambassador Itzhak Harkavi.

### Student Expelled From Moscow School Applies For Admission To Technion

LONDON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Ludmila Korenfeld, a former student at the Moscow Institute of Electronic Machine Building who was expelled in April for "hooliganism," has advised the World Union of Jewish Students that she has applied for admission to the Technion in Haifa, Israel. She was in her third year at the Institute when she was expelled. Several months ago another Jewish student, Marina Kanzburg, was dismissed from the State University of Kharkov on similar charges. She was in her fourth year in the Philology Department. Both students are awaiting approval of their applications for immigration to Israel. Both have been elected members of WUJS.

### Israel Fashion Industry Schedules Largest U.S. Promotion Next Month

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Israel's expanding ready-to-wear industry makes its fifth seasonal appearance before American buyers in New York with a nine-day showing of the Spring '72 collections from 25 manufacturers beginning Tuesday, September 7, at the American Trade and Industrial Development with Israel Inc. showrooms. Export lines in knit/woven moderate-to-better dresses and ensembles, sportswear, beach, and leather/rainwear, will be presented in the largest national seasonal market showing yet to be conducted in the United States by the Israel fashion trade. According to Robert Keller, president of ATID, each of the previous showings conducted by ATID produced more volume than its predecessor. And the upcoming event, the third Spring ready-to-wear presentation in New York, is expected to surpass the \$3.6 million in export business written by the Israeli firms at the last ATID show. More than 1,100 U.S. buyers, it is said, attended that promotion.

The Israeli fashion "week" in the U.S., it is reported, will offer approximately 1,500 different models prepared for the American market by the exhibiting apparel houses. The upcoming American fashion market presentation is arranged by the ATID offices in New York and Tel Aviv, the Israel Company for Fairs and Exhibitions, and the Textile Division of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Oded Erez, Israel Trade Commissioner in New York, stated that Israel's growing fashion exports to the United States reached \$24.5 million F.O.B. Israel in 1970, compared to \$5.8 million in 1967.

**Postmaster General Asked To Determine If USSR Violating Law By Blocking Mail To Jews**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Rep. Edward I. Koch, Democrat of New York, has asked Postmaster General Winton M. Blount to determine if the Soviet authorities are in "violation of any convention" in their alleged blocking of mail to Soviet Jews. Koch, referring to information received from the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, said the Soviet government has "evidently not permitted the delivery of thousands of affidavits sent to Soviet Jews by their relatives now living in Israel." The affidavits are required by the Soviet authorities in the processing of emigration applications. Koch also asked Blount to judge the reported blocking of mail "on a moral basis," as the United States and the USSR are members of the Universal Postal Union. Blount replied that he would give the matter "careful attention."

**ADL Urges Florida Official To Prohibit Bias Against Minority Groups**

MIAMI, Aug. 17 (JTA)--The Florida Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has asked Florida's Secretary of State to prohibit discrimination against minority groups by private employment agencies which are licensed and regulated by the Secretary of State's office. In a letter to Secretary of State Richard B. Stone, the League asked that he exercise his authority granted under Florida law to "promulgate reasonable rules and regulations...for the conduct of the business of employment agencies" by issuing a regulation barring such agencies from discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin. William M. Alper, chairman of ADL's Florida Regional Board, cited the League's surveys of private employment agencies over the past several years which "...have revealed the existence of widespread discriminatory practices against religious and racial minorities." Reviewing the League's past activities which led up to the current action, George Bernstein, chairman of ADL's Discriminations Committee, said that in 1967 "every one of the 37 private employment agencies we surveyed in the Dade County area willingly accepted a discriminatory job order calling for a 'White Protestant' secretary."

Bernstein noted that the "statistics improved slightly in 1970, when a subsequent survey found 22 of the 28 agencies tested accepted an identical discriminatory job order." He added that one of the most disturbing aspects of ADL's survey was the "open contempt" which some employment agency representatives expressed for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment agencies from engaging in discriminatory practices. In both surveys the Florida State Employment Service refused to accept the discriminatory job order. Representatives from ADL and the employment agency industry met on several occasions following both surveys and, said Bernstein, "as is evident from the results of our 1970 survey a few employment agencies have begun refusing discriminatory job orders." He noted, however, the current information we have continues to point the existence of substantial discrimination within the industry. Alper also stated that "ADL is not unmindful of the role that employers play in this situation. Much of this type of discrimination would not exist were it not for the actions of employers who insist on hiring on a discriminatory basis."

**Some 1,000 Jews in Mexico City Participated in Courses, Seminars On Jewish Problems**

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--More than 1,000 members of the Jewish community of Mexico City have participated in the activities of the Center for Jewish Contemporary Studies during its first year, according to a report just received by the American Jewish Committee here. The Center, which celebrated its first anniversary this week, is co-sponsored by AJCommittee's Mexico City office and the Bet-El Congregation of Mexico City. Sergio Nudelstejer, AJCommittee's director in Mexico, also serves as director of the Center, which is housed in the Bet-El Congregation's headquarters building. "It is obvious that we are fulfilling a real need and that there is a deep desire in the Mexican Jewish community to know more about Jewish history and contemporary Jewish thinking around the world," Nudelstejer stated. The Center has featured a series of monthly lectures on subjects ranging from the role of women in Jewish life to the effect of the Bible on Western culture. It has also offered a six-session course on modern Jewish history. The latter was in the form of a seminar and had a regular attendance of 40 registered students, most of whom were in their twenties and thirties. The group included professors and university students, Nudelstejer reported.

One of the Center's most recent projects was a seminar for 150 members of the Women's International Zionist Organization and other Jewish women's groups in Mexico City. The group discussed the present situation and probable future of the Mexican Jewish community; the nature of discrimination; the possible effects on the Jewish community of social changes now under way in Latin America; and the relationship between the State of Israel and Diaspora Jews. Among the lecturers and seminar leaders at the Center were Dr. Eduardo Luis Feher, professor of law at the National University of Mexico and at Iberoamerican University; psychologist Dr. Miguel Jusidman; Dr. Pedro Gringoire, distinguished Christian journalist and Biblical scholar; Professor Nelson Pilosof, Uruguayan philosopher and a Latin American representative of Hebrew University in Jerusalem; and Professor Guidon Sela, a graduate of Hebrew University with a Ph.D. in history from the National University in Mexico.

**Rep. Ford, Gen. Laskov, To Address ZOA Convention**

NEW YORK, Aug. 17 (JTA)--Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and Major General Haim Laskov, former Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, will address the 74th National Convention of the Zionist Organization of America next month in Pittsburgh. Ford, a prominent Administration spokesman, will deal with the Middle East and Soviet Jewry. Other speakers that evening will include Jacques Torczyner, past president of the ZOA, and Dr. Mikhail Zand, the noted Soviet Jewish scholar who recently immigrated to Israel. More than 1,000 delegates from ZOA Regions and Districts throughout the country are expected to attend the four-day Convention opening Sept. 2. Laskov, considered one of Israel's outstanding military heroes, was Chief of Staff of Israel's Defense Forces from 1958 to 1961. He was a battalion commander of the Jewish Brigade in World War II, and an armored commander who, during Israel's War of Liberation, led forces which cleared the road to the besieged city of Jerusalem in March 1948. He also served as chief of the Army's Training Command; commander of the Air Force and the Armored Corps and as commander of the Northern Armored Command during the Sinai campaign.